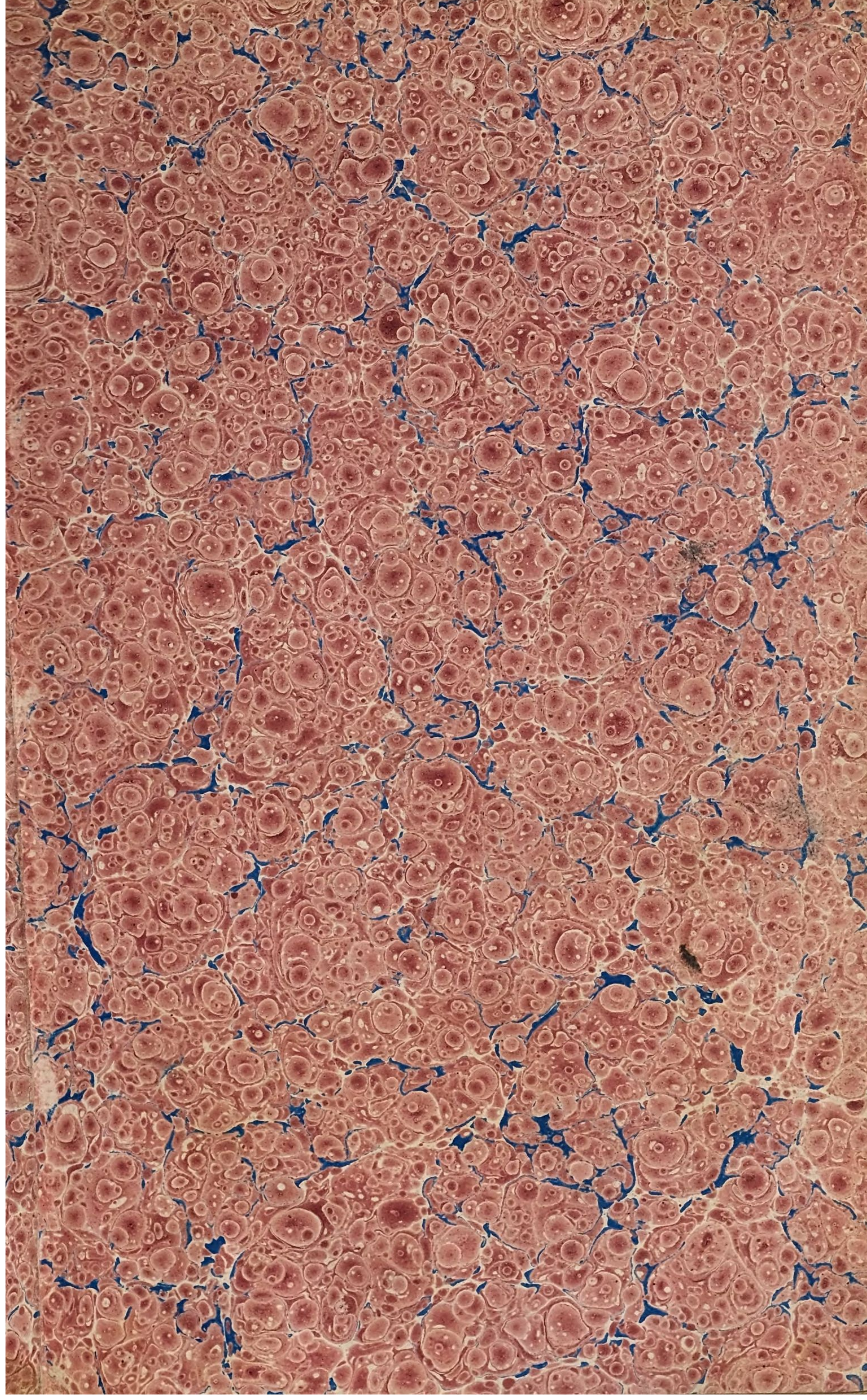






CAPT^N. GORDON,
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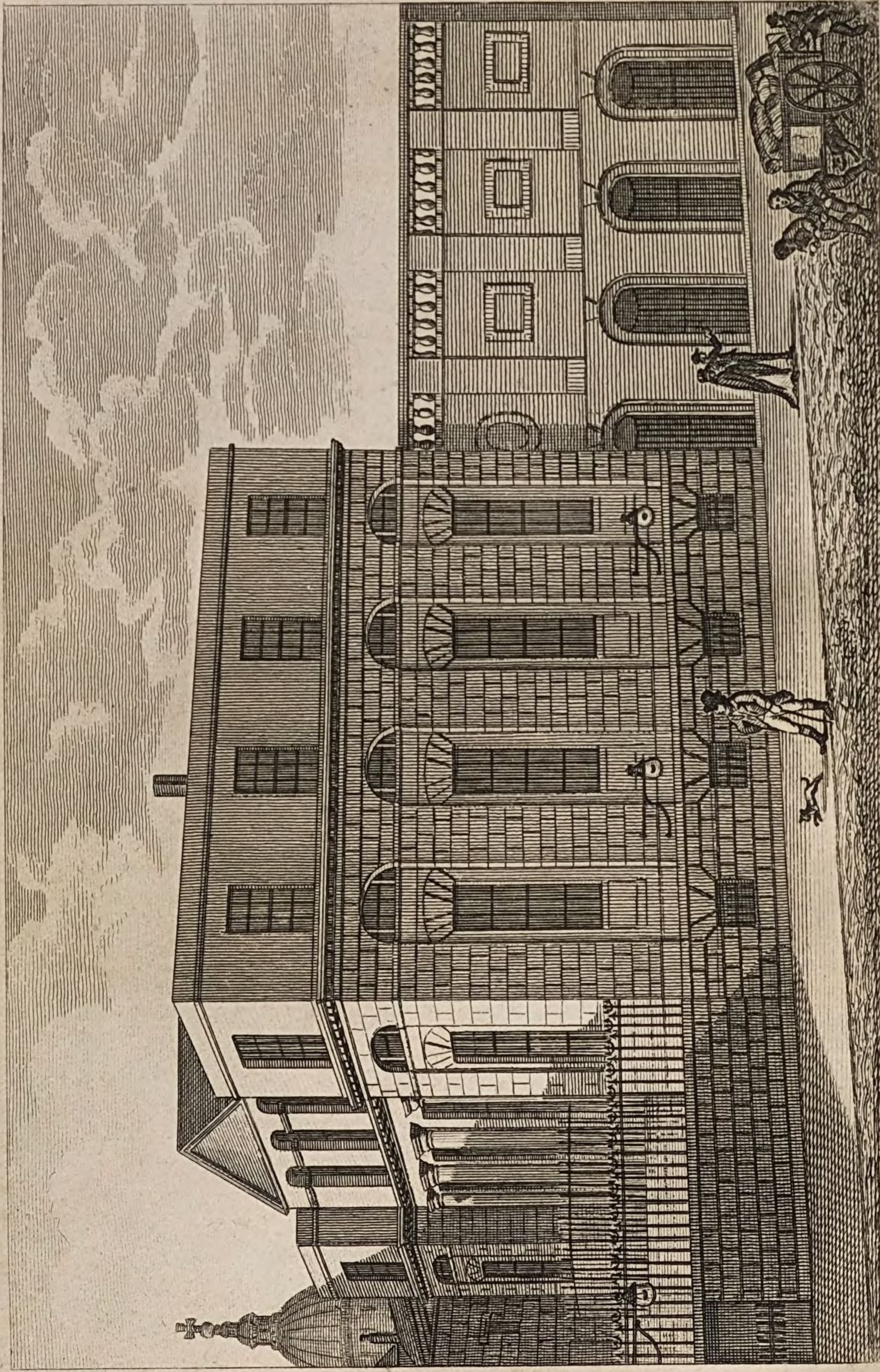
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SESSION HOUSE OLD BAILEY.

NEW
NEW GATE CALENDAR,



J. Shury Sculp.

THE TREAD MILL.

VOL. I.

London.

*Published by J. Robins & Co. Ivy Lane,
Paternoster Row.*

1852

1852

1852

1852

THE NEW
Newgate Calendar ;

BEING
INTERESTING MEMOIRS
OF
NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS,

Who have been convicted of Outrages on

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND,

DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME.

COMPRISING

TRAITORS,
MURDERERS,
INCENDIARIES,
RAVISHERS,
PIRATES,
MUTINEERS,
COINERS,

HIGHWAYMEN,
FOOTPADS,
HOUSEBREAKERS,
RIOTERS,
EXTORTIONERS,
SHARPERS,
FORGERS,

PICKPOCKETS,
FRAUDULENT BANK-
RUPTS,
MONEY-DROPPERS,
IMPOSTORS, AND
THIEVES OF EVERY
DESCRIPTION.

WITH

OCCASIONAL ESSAYS ON CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS

Original Anecdotes,

AND OBSERVATIONS ON PARTICULAR CASES ;

THE

SPEECHES, CONFESSIONS, AND LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS,

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

*A correct Account of the various Modes of Punishment of Criminals in
different Parts of the World.*

BY

ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN,
Attorneys at Law.

VOL. I.

London :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. ROBINS AND CO. ALBION PRESS,
IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

THE NEW Revised Edition of NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS OF THE LAWYERS OF ENGLAND

THESE CASES ARE SELECTED FROM THE
RECORDS OF THE COURT OF COMMONS
AND THE COURT OF CHANCERY
AND ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE
COURT OF COMMONS

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PREFACE.

THE penal laws of the British empire are, by foreign writers, charged with being too sanguinary in the cases of lesser offences. They hold that the punishment of death ought to be inflicted only for crimes of the highest magnitude ; and philanthropists of our own nation have accorded with their opinion. Such persons as have had no opportunity of inquiring into the subject will hardly credit the assertion that there are above one hundred and sixty offences punishable by death, or, as it is denominated, without benefit of clergy. The multiplicity of punishments, it is argued, in many instances defeat their own ends ; for the object is alone the prevention of crime.

One of these writers says, “ The injured, through compassion, will often forbear to prosecute : juries, through compassion, will sometimes forget their oaths, and acquit the guilty, or mitigate the nature of their offence ; and judges, through compassion, will rescue one half of the convicts, and recommend them to royal mercy ;” yet, from the great population of the British islands, and the extensive commerce carried on by its subjects, it is absolutely necessary that every means of protection of persons and property should be adopted. The finger of God pointed at Cain the first murderer, and because, at the creation of the world, it contained but one family, he did not doom the guilty man to death ; but we are taught that a mark was set upon him, as a terror to others in the like case offending. When mortals increased, laws were enacted to punish the murderer with death ; and, when empires were formed, they extended to treason against the state : the introduction of commerce caused them to be inflicted on forgers ; and thus, as luxury increased the catalogue of crimes, they have progressively reached the number already mentioned.

The Roman empire never flourished so much as during the era of the Portian law, which abrogated the punishment of death ; and it fell soon after the revival of the utmost severity of its penal laws. But Rome was not a commercial nation, or it never could, under such an abrogation, have so long remained
the

the mistress of Europe. In the present state of society it has become indispensably necessary that offences which in their nature are highly injurious to the community, and where no precept will avail, should be punished with the forfeiture of life: but those dreadful examples should be exhibited as seldom as possible; for while, on the one hand, such punishment often proves inadequate to its intended effect, by not being carried into execution; so, on the other, by being often repeated, the minds of the multitude are rendered callous to the dreadful example.

Mr. Colquhoun observes, "Can it be thought a correct system of jurisprudence, which inflicts the penalty of death for breaking down the mound of a fish-pond, whereby the fish may escape; or cutting down a fruit-tree in a garden or orchard; or stealing a handkerchief or any trifle from a person's pocket, above the value of twelvepence; while the number of other crimes, of much greater enormity, are only punished with transportation and imprisonment; and while the punishment of murder itself is, and can be, only death, with circumstances of additional ignominy?"

The punishment awaiting this most dreadful of all crimes, from the earliest ages of civilized nations, has been the same as that inflicted by the laws of the British empire, varying alone in the mode of putting the sentence into execution. We find the murderer punished by death in the ancient laws of the Jews, the Romans, and the Athenians; in nations of heathens and idolaters. The Persians, who worship the sun as their deity, press murderers to death between two stones. Throughout the Chinese empire, and the vast dominions of the east, they are beheaded; a death in England esteemed the least dishonourable, but there considered the most ignominious. Mahometans impale them alive, where they long writhe in agony before death comes to their relief. In Roman Catholic countries the murderer expiated his crime upon the rack.

Several writers on crimes and punishments deny the right of man to take away life, given to us by God alone; but a crime like murder, however sanguinary they may find our laws in regard to lesser offences, unquestionably calls loudly for death. "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," saith Holy Writ; but with the life of the murderer the crime should be fully expiated. The English law on this head goes still further—the effects of the murderer revert to the state, thus, as it were, carrying punishment beyond the grave, and involving in its consequences the utter ruin of many a virtuous widow and innocent children. Yet may we be thankful

ful for laws, the dread of which affords us such ample security for our lives and property. Our Saxon ancestors afforded themselves no such protection. In Britain, one of the last nations of Europe emerging from a state of barbarity, this crime was suffered to be expiated by private revenge, or by such pecuniary composition as the friends of the murdered were base enough to accept. Hence resulted the most pernicious consequences, rather adding blood to blood, than serving as an example to evil doers. The dreadful passion of revenge, knowing no bounds, oft fell upon the innocent, while the guilty escaped with impunity. On the other hand, the security of a compromise was, in those days of brutal ferocity, but a weak barrier against the passion, hatred, or caprice, of the rich and powerful. We have much reason to revere those laws, which make no discrimination of rank, wealth, or power; and, however corrupt our parliaments may be, our judges remain upright, and, in every case of doubt, ever inclining to mercy. Of this we have a striking instance in the execution of Laurence Earl Ferrers, a peer of the realm, descended from the royal blood of the Plantagenets, and who had been convicted of the crime of murder. Interest, rank, and wealth, could not save him from death, ignominious as the execution of the meanest criminal; even his suit to King George the Second, to receive his death from the axe instead of the halter, was refused. That upright monarch answered by observing, that, though ennobled, he should die according to the strict letter of the law; and he was consequently hanged at Tyburn. The powerful but unsuccessful interest exerted for the lives of Doctor Dodd, the Perreaus, Ryland, Fauntleroy, and many others, cuts off all hopes of mercy in this world on conviction of the commission of heinous crimes.

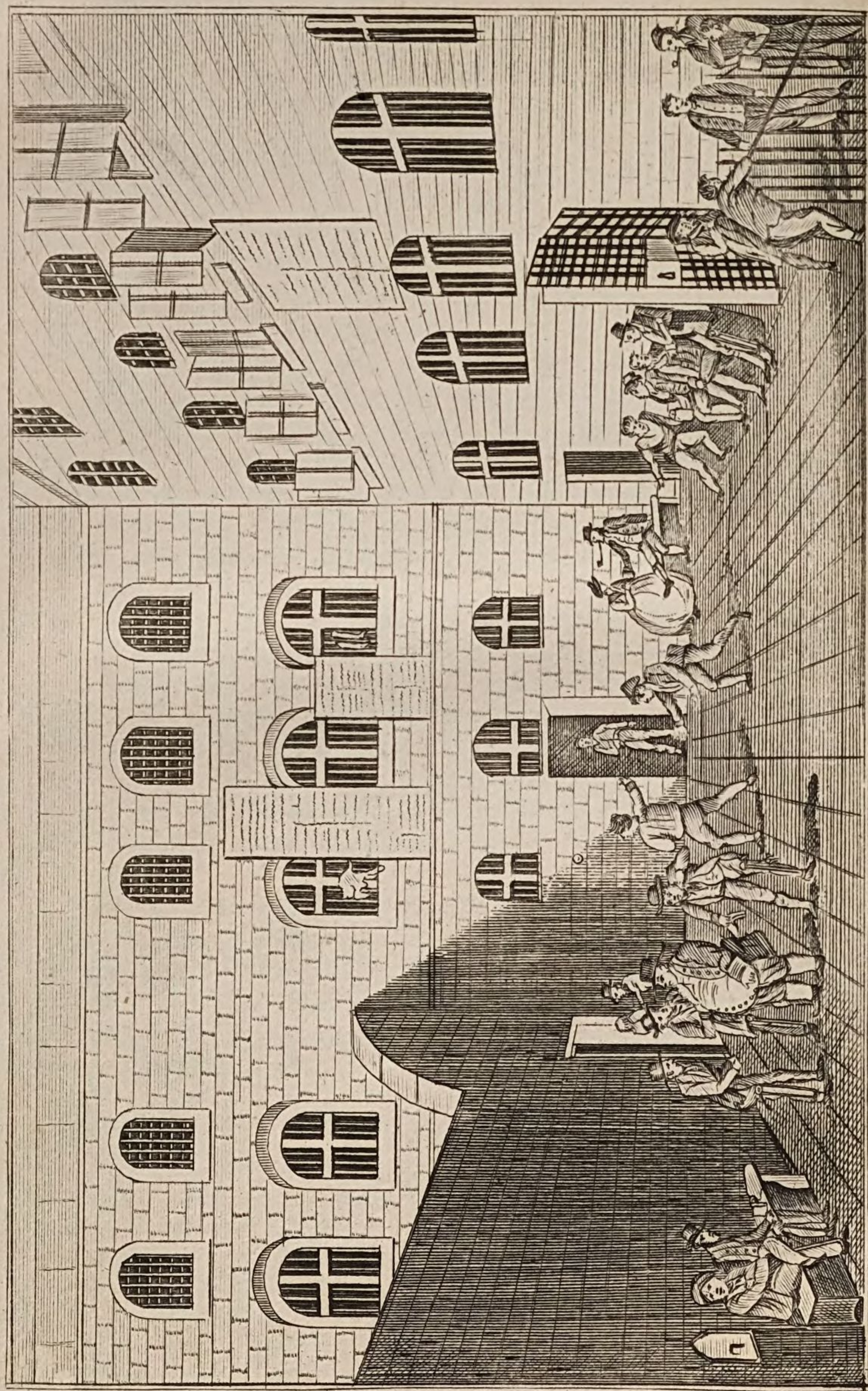
The end of punishment is no other than to prevent the criminal from doing further injury to society, and to deter others from committing the like offence. Such punishments, therefore, and such modes of inflicting them, ought to be chosen, as will make the strongest and most lasting impression on the minds of others, with the least torment to the body of the criminal.

The more immediately, after the conviction of a crime, a punishment is inflicted, the greater will be the lesson to mankind. It will also be more just, because it spares the criminal the superfluous torments of uncertainty. The time alone necessary to make his peace with God should be granted; and respites, unless they eventually prove the royal mind entirely inclined to mercy, are little better than torment to the malefactor.

“An immediate punishment,” says another commentator, “is, in this respect, more useful ; because, the smaller the interval of time between the punishment and the crime, the stronger and more lasting will be the association of the two ideas of CRIME and PUNISHMENT ; so that they may be considered, one as the cause, and the other as the unavoidable and necessary effect. It is demonstrated that an association of ideas is the cement which unites the fabric of the human intellect ; without which pleasure and pain would be simple and ineffectual sensations. Men who have no general ideas, or universal principles, act in consequence of the most immediate and familiar associations ; but the more remote and complex only present themselves to the minds of those who are passionately attached to a single object ; or to those of greater understanding, who have acquired a habit of rapidly comparing together a number of objects, and of forming a conclusion ; and the result, that is, the action, in consequence, by these means, becomes less dangerous and uncertain.”

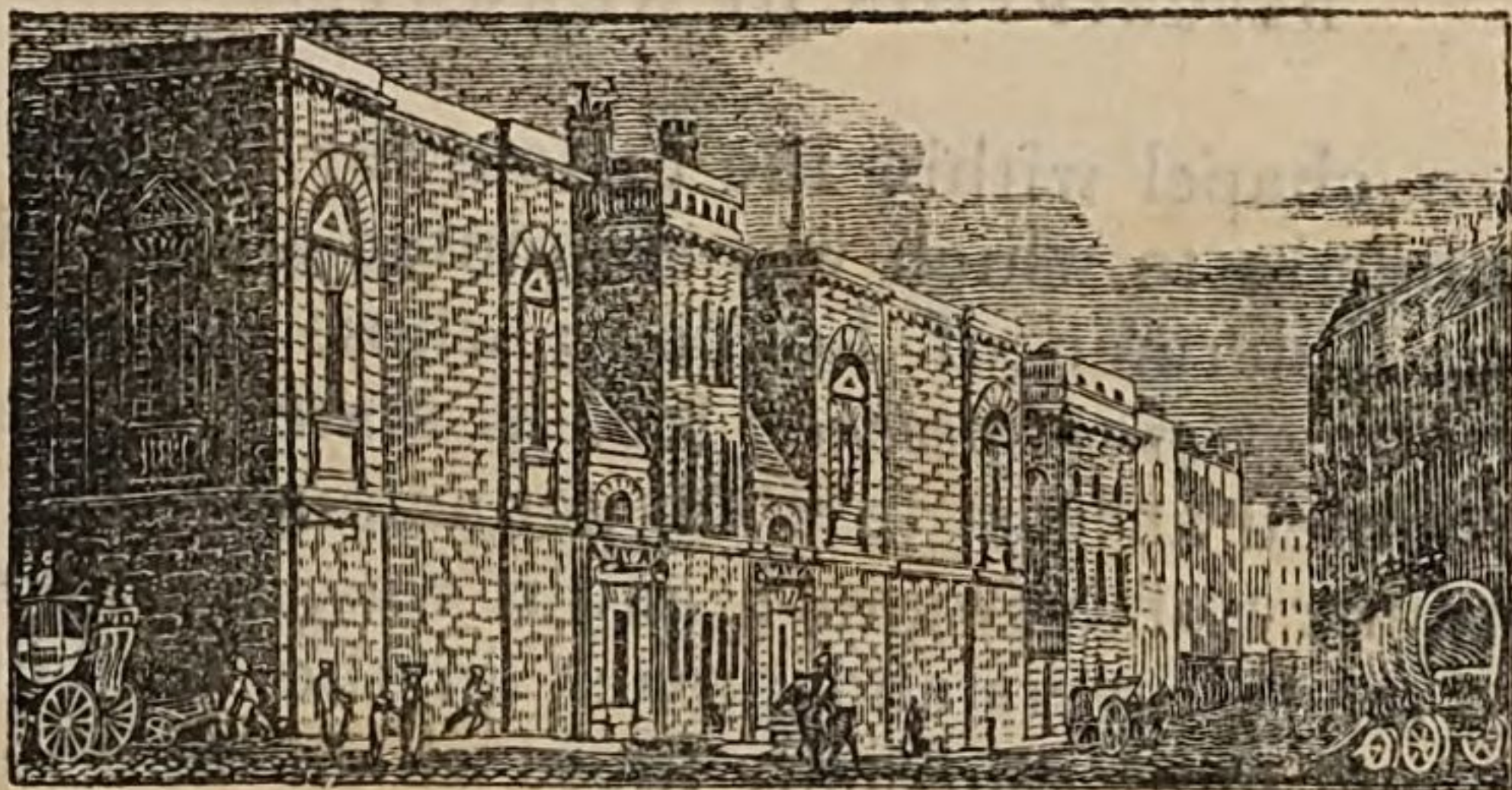
It is, then, of the greatest importance that punishment should succeed the crime as immediately as possible, if we intend that in the rude minds of the multitude the picture of the crime shall instantly awaken the attendant idea of punishment, delaying which serves only to separate these two ideas ; and thus affects the minds of the spectators rather as a terrible sight than the necessary consequences of a crime. The horror should contribute to heighten the idea of the punishment

Next to the necessary example of punishment to offenders is the record of such examples, in order that such as are unhappily moved with the sordid passion of acquiring wealth by violence, or stimulated by the heinous sin of revenge to shed the blood of a fellow-creature, may have before them a picture of the torment of mind and bodily sufferings of such offenders. In this light the following Criminal Chronology must prove highly acceptable to all ranks and conditions of men ; for we shall find, in the course of these volumes, that even the sacred character, the noble, and the wealthy, are not free from those passions, which are in them more unworthy, because education ought to have taught them better, than in the lowest individual.



VIEW OF THE INSIDE OF NEWGATE.

Published November 11809, by Nuttall, Fisher & Tiron, Liverpool.



Description of Newgate.

THE exact period of time when this GATE to the metropolis was first erected we are not able, with precision, to determine; but we find that, so early as the year 1211, the apartments of it were appropriated for the confinement of felons, as a county gaol for London and Middlesex. It was also then the common prison for nobles, and such great officers of state who happened to incur the displeasure of their sovereign. We find no account of Newgate antecedent to the reign of Henry I. but, as we have shown it in existence for more than 600 years, it may surely be called an ancient place of terror to evil doers.

London was anciently fortified against foreign foes, as well as pretenders to the throne; seven city gates were first erected, namely, Ald-Gate, Bishop's-Gate, Moor-Gate, Cripple-Gate, Alder's-Gate, Lud-Gate, and Bridge-Gate; and, some years after, one was added, called New-Gate. The particular structure of this first building is not on record; but in the great fire of London, in the year 1666, it was so much damaged as to render it necessary to pull it down, when a beautiful structure was erected on its site, the west side of which was adorned with three Tuscan pilasters, with their entablatures, and at the intercolumniations were four niches, in one of which was a figure representing Liberty, at whose feet was placed a Cat, alluding to Sir Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, who was a great benefactor to this gate. The east side was adorned with a range of pilasters also, and their entablatures; with Justice, Mercy, and Truth, in the three remaining niches.

The apartments in and belonging to this prison were very well adapted to the purposes of such a place; but the best of them were very dismal. It was then the county gaol for Middlesex, both for debtors and malefactors; and the city prison for criminals only. The number of miserable wretches which constantly filled the prison was so great, and they caused so much nastiness, that old Newgate, as it may now be called, was seldom clear of a dangerous infection, which was called THE GAOL DISTEMPER; to remedy which, it was thought proper to erect a ventilator on the top of the prison, to expel the foul air, and to make way for such as was fresh and salutary; which, in a great measure, had its desired effect.

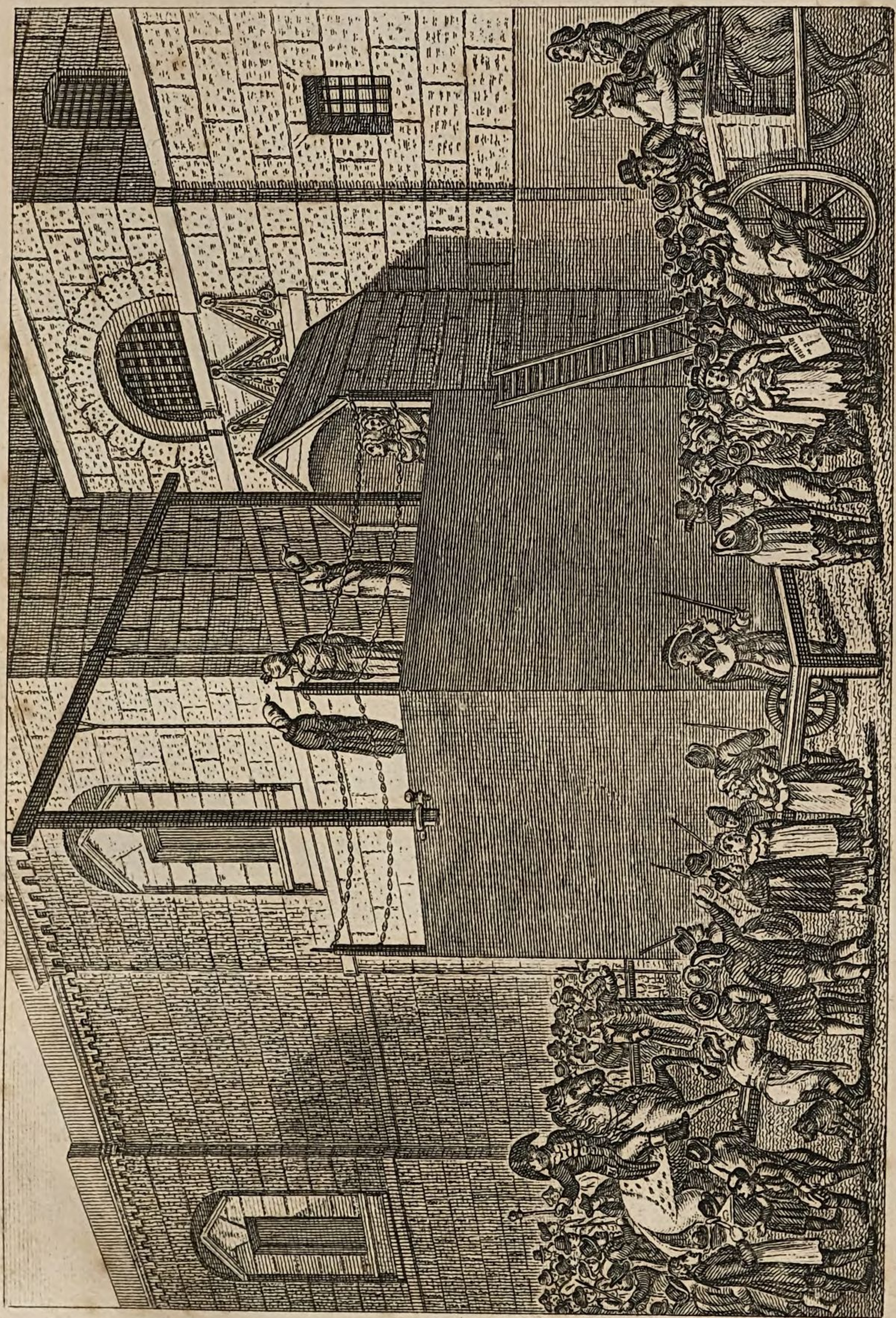
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There was a chapel within the prison, for the use of those who were confined; to which was appointed a chaplain, at the election of the aldermen of London; whose salary, and perquisites in *printing dying speeches*, &c. as stated by an ancient historian, amounted at least to 200*l.* per annum. He was then styled the Ordinary of Newgate; and it was, as indeed it now is, his duty to read prayers and preach in the said chapel, to visit the sick, and more especially those which were in the cells under sentence of death, to prepare them for a future state. He was also obliged to attend upon, and to continue with, such as were to be executed, to the last moment of their lives; and to pray to those disposed to hear him, among the spectators, at the place of execution.

In the year 1776 it was judged necessary to rebuild and enlarge the common gaol of London and Middlesex: the ancient fabric, with its gate, was therefore levelled with the ground. The present structure covers only a small part of the site of the old building, extending more to the south. It was supposed to have been one of the strongest modern buildings in England; but, when barely finished, the mob, first set in motion by Lord George Gordon, under the cloak of religion, the old pretext for commotion, broke into the keeper's apartments, plundered him of all his portable property, and threw his furniture into the street, which they burnt with savage ferocity. They then set fire to the inside of the prison, and liberated the whole of the prisoners before the arrival of the militia, by whose spirit and activity the whole metropolis was saved from infuriated mobs of plunderers. Newgate was soon repaired; for the immense walls braved the flames. It is a noble building, with many more accommodations than already described to have been in the GATE, clean, and airy. The unhappy prisoners can be taken to their trials without being exposed to public view, as was before the case; and, as many appeared innocent, to such (and some are ever in the calendar) it must have been a heartbreaking trial to walk in fetters, to gain their acquittal, through lines of idle and curious spectators.

In front of the prison the condemned malefactors are now executed, which is certainly preferable to a shocking procession through the streets, to a distant gallows, and more humane to the miserable sufferers, as it spares them the additional mortification of hours' exposure to an idle and unfeeling mob. They are now executed upon a large moveable scaffold, which is brought out of the Press-yard on the occasion. The malefactors stand upon what may be called a false stage, and, when their devotions are finished, on the signal given, by moving a small piece of the mechanism, the stage drops, and leaves the sufferers suspended in the air.

THE



Turnbull Sc.

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THE NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

ALEXANDER BALFOUR,

CONVICTED AT EDINBURGH OF THE MURDER OF MR. SYME.

THE first criminal that particularly calls our attention was of a noble family in Scotland, a murderer of the worst description; yet in whose fate we have an extraordinary dispensation of Providence, in permitting his flight from justice, and granting him a long life after his conviction of this horrid crime; to the end, without doubt, of giving time for repentance to so great a sinner.

This man was born in the year 1687, at the seat of his father, Lord Burleigh, near Kinross. He was first sent for education to a village called Orwell, near the place of his birth, and thence to the university of St. Andrew's, where he pursued his studies with a diligence and success that greatly distinguished him. His father, Lord Burleigh, had intended to have sent him into the army in Flanders, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, in which he had rational expectation of his rising to preferment, as he was related to the Duke of Argyle and the Earl of Stair, who were majors-general in the army; but this scheme unhappily did not take place. Mr. Balfour, going to his father's house during the vacation at the university, became enamoured of Miss Anne Robertson, who officiated as teacher to his sisters. This young lady was possessed of considerable talents, improved by a fine education; but Lord Burleigh being apprized of the connexion between her and his son, she was discharged, and the young gentleman sent to make the

tour of France and Italy. Before he went abroad, he sent the young lady a letter, informing her, that, if she married before his return, he would murder her husband. Notwithstanding this threat, which she might presume had its origin in ungovernable passion, she married Mr. Syme, a schoolmaster, at Innerkeithing, in the county of Fife.—When Balfour returned from his travels, his first business was to inquire for Miss Robertson, and, learning that she was married, he proceeded immediately to Innerkeithing, when he saw Mrs. Syme sitting at her window, nursing the first child of her marriage. Recollecting his former threatenings, she now screamed with terror, and called to her husband to consult his safety. Mr. Syme, unconscious of offence, paid no regard to what she said; but, in the interim, Balfour entered the school-room, and, finding the husband, shot him through the heart. The confusion consequent on this scene favoured his escape: but he was taken into custody, within a few days, at a public house, in a village four miles from Edinburgh; and, being brought to trial, was sentenced to die, but ordered to be beheaded by the *maiden*,* in respect to the nobi-

* Mr. Pennant gives the following account of the maiden:—"It seems to have been confined to the limits of the forest of Hardwicke, or the eighteen towns and hamlets within its precincts. The time when this custom took place is unknown; whether Earl Warren, lord of this forest, might have established it among the sanguinary laws then in use against the invaders of the hunting rites, or whether it might not take place after the woollen manufactures at Halifax began to gain strength, is uncertain. The last is very probable; for the wild country around the town was inhabited by a lawless set, whose depredations on the cloth-tenters might soon stifle the efforts of infant industry. For the protection of trade, and for the greater terror of offenders by speedy execution, this custom seems to have been established, so as at last to receive the force of law, which was, "That if a felon be taken within the liberty of the forest of Hardwicke, with goods stolen out, or within the said precincts, either hand-habend, back-berand, or confessioned, to the value of thirteen pence halfpenny, he shall, after three market-days within the town of Halifax next after such apprehension, and being condemned, be taken to the gibbet, and there have his head cut from his body."

"The offender had always a fair trial; for, as soon as he was taken, he was brought to the lord's bailiff at Halifax; he was then exposed on the three markets (which here were held thrice a week), placed in the stocks, with the goods stolen on his back, or, if the theft was of the cattle kind, they were placed by him and this was done both to strike terror into others,

lity of his family. The scaffold was actually erected for the purpose; but on the preceding day his sister went to visit him, and, being very much like him in face and stature, they changed clothes, and he made his escape from the prison. His friends having provided horses for him, and a servant, at the west gate of Edinburgh, they rode to a distant village, where he changed his clothes again, and afterwards left the kingdom. Lord Burleigh, the father, died in the reign of Queen Anne; but had first obtained a pardon for his son, who succeeded to the family title and honours, and who lived nearly fifty years after his escape, having died, in 1752, a sincere penitent for the murder he had committed.

others, and to produce new informations against him. The bailiff then summoned four freeholders of each town within the forest to form a jury. The felon and prosecutors were brought face to face: the goods, the cow or horse, or whatsoever was stolen, produced. If he was found guilty, he was remanded to prison, had a week's time allowed for preparation, and then was conveyed to this spot, where his head was struck off by this machine. I should have premised, that if the criminal, either after apprehension, or in the way to execution, could escape out of the limits of the forest (part being close to the town), the bailiff had no further power over him; but if he should be caught within the precincts at any time after, he was immediately executed on his former sentence.

“This privilege was very freely used during the reign of Elizabeth: the records before that time were lost. Twenty-five suffered in her reign, and at least twelve from 1623 to 1650; after which, I believe, the privilege was no more exerted.

“This machine of death is now destroyed; but I saw one of the same kind in a room under the parliament-house in Edinburgh, where it was introduced by the regent Morton, who took a model of it as he passed through Halifax, and at length suffered by it himself. It is in form of a painter's easel, and about ten feet high; at four feet from the bottom is the cross bar on which the fellow lays his head, which is kept down by another placed above. In the inner edges of the frame are grooves; in these is placed a sharp axe, with a vast weight of lead, supported at the very summit with a peg; to that peg is fastened a cord, which the executioner cutting, the axe falls, and does the affair effectually, without suffering the unhappy criminal to undergo a repetition of strokes, as has been the case in the common method. I must add, that if the sufferer is condemned for stealing a horse or cow, the string is tied to the beast, which, on being whipped, pulls out the peg, and becomes the executioner.”

Thus we find that the guillotine of France is not an instrument of death of the invention of that country. During the revolution, this instrument, precisely on the model of the maiden, was adopted, because it produced a death more instantaneous, and consequently less painful, than that inflicted on criminals in Britain.

*MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE
VAN BERGHEN, and DROMELIUS,
their Servant, Publicans.*

EXECUTED JULY 10, 1700, FOR THE MURDER OF THEIR GUEST,
MR. OLIVER NORRIS.

THESE criminals were natives of Holland, who, having settled in England, kept a public house in East Smithfield, in 1700, and where Geraldus Dromelius acted as their servant. Mr. Norris was a country gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, and who went into the house of Van Berghen, about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so, her mistress whispered her, and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse, containing a sum of money; whereupon he returned, and charged Van Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper. At this time Dromelius entered the room, and, threatening Mr. Norris in a cavalier manner, the latter resented the insult, and at length a quarrel ensued. At this juncture Van Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body; Mrs. Van Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act. When Mr. Norris was dead, they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames: and, in the mean time, Mrs. Van Berghen washed the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The clothes which had been stripped from

from the deceased were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed a waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland. The next morning, at low water, the body of a man was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but not succeeding in this, some of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van Berghen's house. Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room, which appeared to have been lately mopped. Inquiry was made after Dromelius, but Van Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service: on which they were taken into custody, with the servant-maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this time the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared, and he was likewise taken into custody. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners, * to whom all the circumstances above mentioned appeared so striking that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty, and accordingly they received sentence of death. After

* This is an indulgence of the laws of England to accused foreigners, which no other country affords in such cases. Wherever six men can be found of the nation of the prisoner, they are impannelled with the same number of Englishmen. During the American war, in the year 1778, when the Royal Westminster Regiment of Middlesex Militia were on guard at Forton prison, near Gosport, over French and American prisoners, some of the latter, proving riotous, were fired upon by the guard, and two or three thereby killed. The Coroner of the county summoned a jury, and swore in one half countrymen of the deceased, though still prisoners. The consequence was, that for near two days a verdict could not be agreed upon; the Americans persisting in its being brought in wilful murder. At length they compromised the affair for manslaughter; and thus was this lenity suffered to be abused by men charged with rebellion.

condemnation,

condemnation, and a short time before the day of execution, Dromelius assured the ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himself, and that it was preceded and followed by these circumstances, viz. Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and desirous of going to his inn, Mr. Van Berghen directed him to attend him thither; soon after they left the house, Norris went into a broken building, where, using opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his sword, he wrested it from his hand, and stabbed him with it in several places: that this being done, Norris groaned very much; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a discovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In answer to this it was said, that the story was altogether improbable: for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above mentioned, some blood would have been found on the spot, and there would have been holes in his clothes from the stabbing; neither of which was the case. Still, however, Dromelius persisted in his declaration, with a view to save the life of his mistress, with whom he was thought to have an improper connexion. Mr. and Mrs. Van Berghen were attended at the place of execution by some divines of their own country, as well as an English clergyman; and desired the prayers of them all. Mr. Van Berghen, unable to speak intelligibly in English, conversed in Latin; from which it may be inferred, that he had been educated in a style superior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He said that the murder was not committed in his house, and that he knew no more of it than that Dromelius came to him, while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his escape; but that, when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to some persons to pursue the murderer: this, however, was not proved on his trial. Mrs. Van Berghen also solemnly declared that she knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their house; that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and saying he had murdered the gentleman, she went for the hamper to hold the bloody clothes, and assisted Dromelius in his escape, a
circumstance

circumstance which would not be deemed criminal in her country. This was, however, an artful plea ; for, in Holland, accessories before or after the fact are accounted as principals. Dromelius, when at the place of execution, persisted in his former tale ; but desired the prayers of the surrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent passions, to which he then fell an untimely sacrifice. They suffered near the Harts-horn brewhouse, East Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the 10th of July, in the year 1700. The bodies of the men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile End ; but the woman was buried.

The denial by this unhappy couple of the crime at the very moment their souls must appear before the Almighty, and after such clear proof, on which a jury, composed one half of their own countrymen, without hesitation found them guilty, greatly adds to their turpitude.

GEORGE CADDELL,

EXECUTED JULY 21, 1700, FOR THE CRUEL MURDER OF MISS PRICE
WHOM HE HAD SEDUCED AND PROMISED MARRIAGE,

WAS a native of the town of Bromsgrove, in Worcestershire, at which he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals, to obtain an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession, he went to Worcester, and lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city ; in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child. After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here he courted Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married but for the commission of the following crime, which cost him his life. A young lady, named Elizabeth Price, who had been seduced by an officer in
the

the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence ; and after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them ; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life. As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to marry her, but Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time. At last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean : she then became more importunate than ever, and threatened, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them. Hereupon Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price ; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her, who had been as condescending to another as to himself. This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price, thus deluded, met him at the time appointed, on the road leading towards Burton-upon-Trent, at a house known by the sign of the Nag's Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under the hedge, where, after a little conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape. In the distraction of his mind, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. When he came home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused ; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not be even guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell ; on
which

which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: he was accordingly taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford; and, being soon afterwards tried, was found guilty, condemned, and executed at Stafford.

THOMAS COOK,

MURDERER AND RIOTER, WHO WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS OWN APPREHENSION.

How frequently do we find that the guilty, in the interval of time between the commission and conviction of a crime, are compelled by an infatuation beyond resistance to introduce the subject of their crime into conversation with strangers? Many years ago, a mail-robber was apprehended in a remote part of Cornwall, on suspicion, from his frequently speaking upon the nature and danger of plundering the public mail, and executed for that offence. The subject of the present memoir was taken into custody at Chester, for a crime committed in London, merely from his constant relation of the riot in which he had committed the murder. Thus, by a kind of mental *ignis fatuus*, the murderer was led on to his own detection. These are the workings of conscience, that earthly hell which torments those who, with malice aforethought, have spilt the blood of their fellow-creatures. How very strangely did this mental agony appear in the conduct of Governor Wall, whose life shall hereafter be given! After 20 years had elapsed from the commission of the murder, and while he lived in personal security in a foreign country, his conscience afforded him no peace of mind. He voluntarily returned to London, sought his own apprehension, was convicted, and executed.

Thomas Cook was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age, his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years, and then, running away, engaged himself in the service of — Needham, Esq. who was page of honour to King William the Third; but his mother writing to him,

and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, that "a gentleman's service was no inheritance," he quitted his place, and, going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier. Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter at May-fair. At this time May-fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shows were exhibited, and it was the favourite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree, that Queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which the justices of peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance.—When the constables came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by whom some of the latter were wounded.—Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial), while he was in a public house there, he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it: to which he answered, "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland? We in London drive them; for at a fair called May-fair there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself. The constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and when the man dropped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away." Cook, having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence

whence he was removed by writ of Habeas Corpus to London; and, being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned, declaring that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in the company of those who killed him. Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn, but when he was got to High Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. On his return to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who rejoiced on his narrow escape, but he declined all company except that of those who would assist him in his devotions. On Friday he received another respite till the 11th of August, when he was executed.

In our preface we have commented on that part of the exercise of the royal prerogative which allows the king to reprieve the criminal, and at his pleasure afterwards to give the fiat of execution. In the case of Thomas Cook we have an example of this ill-timed lenity. When once the mind of the criminal is fortified by repentance and resignation to death, and then permitted to enjoy the anticipation of the remainder of a natural course of life, through a reprieve, it is cruel to proceed to the execution of the sentence of the law.

JOHN HOLLIDAY,

HOUSEBREAKER, CONVICTED UNDER THE ASSUMED NAME OF SIMPSON.

THIS man, whose career of villainy in England was not long, had committed a variety of depredations in Flanders, where he served as a soldier under King William the Third. On the peace of Ryswick he received his discharge, and, with several of his confederates in acts of villainy, repaired to London, where they formed themselves into a gang of robbers, of which Holliday, under the name of Simpson, was appointed their captain.—

We can trace but few particulars of the depredations they committed in London and its environs, farther than that they were alternately highwaymen and house-breakers.

In the year 1700 Holliday was indicted in the name of Simpson for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Gawden, and stealing thereout two feather beds, and other articles; to which he pleaded guilty, and was, for that offence, hanged at Tyburn.

While under sentence of death he made the following confession of the singular and daring robberies he had committed: his officers, the church, nay, the king himself, were plundered by this daring villain. He said that his name was not Simpson, but Holliday, and that during a great part of the war in the reign of King William he was a soldier in Flanders, where he used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers: and once, when the army lay before Mons, and his majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the king, accompanied by the Earl (afterwards Duke) of Marlborough, and Lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his majesty's tent, and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed, and, when the robbery was discovered, Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a house-breaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders, as well as in England; and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape; and that, when he was taken, his arms, legs, back, and neck, were secured with irons; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson, and two of his companions, used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to mass; he repeatedly
broke

broke into the churches of Brussels, Mechlin, and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

This offender further acknowledged, that having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned for the fact, by a court-martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter, in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with Prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with King William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

In a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for, as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one at least of the soldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt, for Middleburgh, on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody; but, as no proof arose that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS,

ROBBER.

THIS young man received the education of a gentleman, was articled as clerk to an attorney of high repute, and enjoyed the utmost latitude of confidence in his master; but
which

which a course of dissipation destroyed, and finally brought him to an untimely fate. His misfortunes may prove a lesson to young gentlemen intended for the learned professions, while the danger into which a young lady, his master's daughter, had, through him, nearly fallen, will, we trust, be a caution to females against placing their affections without the sanction of their parents.

Mr. Griffiths was born at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk, and was the son of an eminent apothecary of that town. On the expiration of the term of his clerkship he was retained by his master, on a handsome salary, to manage his business, and he discharged his duty, for a considerable time, with great regularity; but, unhappily becoming acquainted with some young lawyers who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's servitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently from home, the business of the office was committed to the care of Mr. Griffiths: and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings, in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was, that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment, Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk circuit, and, while he was in the country, he held a constant correspondence with the young lady: but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed the least idea that his daughter had
any

any kind of connexion with his clerk ; but at length the circumstance of the affair transpired in the following manner :

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day, when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man ; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language should express the surprise of the old gentleman, when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter, in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune ; but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct ; in answer to which she said that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made, which represented Mr. Griffiths's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master, for a considerable time past, had acted as the solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery ; but the determination respecting it had been put off, on account of Lord Sommers being removed from the office of chancellor, and the great seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk ; but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account to his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He was already considerably indebted to different people, and had not a friend to whom he
could

could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts ; but, being driven to the utmost necessity, he came to the resolution of breaking open his master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money : but, as nothing else but money was stolen, Griffiths would very probably have escaped suspicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge ; and during their residence at that place of amusement, Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence again he took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return he missed this sum ; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked ; but hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued ; and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which (happy for her) brought their connexion to a period.

Griffiths being (as already observed) possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a cheerful evening with his old associates, now, during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there :—finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller, and sold for twelve pounds ; and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and, casually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone ; and, being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched ; but no discovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requested that he would go to the several jewellers' shops, and make inquiry for the lost ring. Griffiths pretended obedience, and, when he returned, acquainted his
his

his master that all his inquiries respecting it had been ineffectual.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following singular manner:—The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and became instantly acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, immediately concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner; and, being a man of open and honorable character, he related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which the person who had lost the ring hearing, desired to have a sight of it; and, on the first inspection, knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers with a constable; and take him into custody, if he appeared to be the man who had sold the ring. As this was really the case, he was carried before a justice of the peace, and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed, and likewise that he had robbed his master of money, in the manner we have already related.

Griffiths, in consequence hereof, was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next Sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly.

As in his situation it was natural to suppose that he would attempt to correspond with the young lady to whom he had aspired as a wife, a proper person was employed by her father to intercept his letters; a service that was performed with such care, that not one reached her hands, though a considerable number were written.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself in wedlock were vanished, he began seriously to

prepare himself for that state, in which persons “neither marry, nor are given in marriage.” He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the associating with persons who were his superiors in point of circumstances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to support, in order to secure the object of his wishes. He died a penitent, at Tyburn, the 1st of August, 1700.

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER,

EXECUTED NEAR EDINBURGH, FOR THE MURDER OF THE TWO
CHILDREN OF MR. GORDON.

It is with deep regret that the order in which we place this criminal biography compels us thus early to enter upon the following: wherein we have to bring before the reader a murderer, in a character which ever should be held most sacred. A crime more premeditated, and more fraught with cruelty, never stained the annals of history. Ambition hath often impelled tyrants to shed innocent blood; revenge has stimulated men to kill each other; jealousy with “jaundiced eye” destroys the object of its love; but God forbid that we should ever again have to record the fact of a tutor, a minister of the Gospel, premeditatedly murdering his pupils!—the sons of his benefactor. When we add that this most miserable sinner expiated his offence in avowing himself an atheist, we arrive at once at the very depth of human depravity. This detestable culprit was born in the county of Fife, in Scotland, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew for education. When he had acquired a sufficient share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success. Several of the younger clergymen act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years,

years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London. Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks, and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart. Unfortunately a connexion took place between Hunter and the young woman, which soon increased to a criminal degree, and was maintained for a considerable time without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual; but, having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse. No suspicion was entertained that these children would mention to their parents what had happened, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age; but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again. From this period he entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention: but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding

the commission of the fatal act, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat very near Edinburgh ; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit ; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that only the little girl should attend them. By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated ; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, 1700, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers. Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him ; and, when he had reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat the children ran from him ; but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife ; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first. These horrid murders were committed within half a mile of the Castle of Edinburgh ; and as the deed was perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody. At the very time, a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed.— Alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead : Hunter now had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river ; and, his person being immediately known to them, a messenger

messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid murder of their sons.—Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news; the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the frantic mother, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted. According to an old Scottish law it was decreed, that “if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the Sheriff’s Court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact.” It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but this offender’s crime was of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law. The prisoner was, therefore, committed to the gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and, on the following day, the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet: and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon’s daughter as well as his sons. The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that “on the succeeding day he should be executed on a gibbet, erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders; but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet by a rope, and, when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet.” Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the highway, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion

occasion that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton. It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration:—“There is no God—I do not believe there is any; or, if there is, I hold him in defiance.”—Yet this infidel had been regarded as a minister of the Gospel!

JOHN COWLAND,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FOR THE MURDER OF SIR ANDREW
SLANNING, DEC. 20, 1700.

THE crime for which this man suffered, though of the same degree in the eye of the law as that immediately preceding, yet it was by no means attended with such diabolical atrocity. It will show the danger ever to be apprehended from indiscriminate connexion with females, and a caution against intemperance.

He was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith, but of a vicious irascible disposition.—He and some other *bon vivants* had followed Sir Andrew Slanning, Bart. who had made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury-lane playhouse, and retired with her as soon as the play was ended. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife. Cowland, knowing Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides; but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequence happened. They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose Tavern; and Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that this mediation was attended with success; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in his belly, who, finding himself wounded,

wounded, cried out “ Murder ! ” One of Lord Warwick’s servants, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up immediately, and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew ; which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape ; but being pursued, he was easily retaken. Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of peace, who committed him ; and on Dec. the 5th, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey on three indictments—the first at common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the Coroner’s Inquest for the murder. Every fact was fully proved on the trial ; and, among other things, it was deposed that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000*l.* a year, and his family became extinct by his death ; and that he had been a gentleman of great good nature, and by no means disposed to animosity. On Cowland’s being found guilty, sentence of death was passed on him ; and, though great interest was made to obtain a pardon, he was executed at Tyburn the 20th Dec. 1700.

CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD,

WHO SUFFERED FOR PIRACY, AT EXECUTION DOCK, MAY 22, 1701.

PIRACY is an offence committed on the high seas, by villains who man and arm a vessel for the purpose of robbing fair traders. It is also piracy to rob a vessel lying in-shore at anchor, or at a wharf. The river Thames, until the excellent establishment of a marine police, was infested by gangs of fresh water pirates who were continually rowing about watching the homeward-bound vessels, which, whenever opportunity offered, they boarded, and stole whatever part of their cargo they could hoist into their boats. Of late years, however, the shipping there, collected from every part of the habitable globe, lie in tolerable security against such disgraceful depredations.

Piracy

Piracy is a capital offence by the civil law, although by Act of Parliament it may be heard and determined according to the rules of common law, as if the offence had been committed on land. The mode of trial is regulated by the 28th of Henry VIII. cap. 15; and further by the Acts 11 and 12 William III. cap. 7. and 39 George III. cap. 87; which also extends to other offences committed on the high seas.

Captain John Kidd was born in the town of Greenock, in Scotland, and bred to the sea. Having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage, nor for the want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice; and to this was owing his connexion with the pirates. While in their company, he used to converse and act as they did; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be to extirpate these abandoned people, and prevent their future depredations. His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who, forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. For a series of years great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North America, on account of the advantage they derived from purchasing effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of King William the Third, he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New York on the Earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities, who immediately began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of, and consulted with Colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New York, on the most feasible steps to obviate the evils so long complained of. At
this

this juncture, Captain Kidd was arrived from New York, in a sloop of his own; him, therefore, the Colonel mentioned to Lord Bellamont as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted to. This plan met with the fullest approbation of his Lordship, who mentioned the affair to his Majesty, and recommended it to the notice of the board of Admiralty. But such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution. Accordingly, Colonel Levingston made application to Lord Bellamont, that, as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expense, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it. His Lordship approved of this project, but it was attended with considerable difficulty; at length, however, the Lord Chancellor Somers, the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with Colonel Levingston and Captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l.* for the expense of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking. Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission, in the usual form, was granted to Captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct, or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to Lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to Lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instructions how to act, but received his sailing orders from Lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act agreeably to the letter of his commission. Accordingly, a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the *Adventure Galley*: and in this Captain Kidd sailed for New York, towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made prize of a French ship. From New York he sailed to the Madeira Islands,

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thence to Bonavista and St. Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea; but, not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons burden, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there. Having sold his prize he again put to sea, and, at the expiration of five weeks, took the Quedah Merchant, a ship of above four hundred tons burden, the master of which was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner; but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number. He carried the ship to St. Mary, near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure Galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last-mentioned ship, and sailed for the West Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West-India Islands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman, named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curaçoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant, with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East India ship, which had just then commenced pirate. Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston, in New England. In the interim Bolton sold the Quedah Merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what happened to Lord Bellamont. Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his Lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah Merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind
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of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy. Upon this the Earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship Rochester was accordingly sent to bring him to England ; but this vessel, happening to be disabled, was obliged to return : a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time subsisted respecting this affair, and which, no doubt, took its rise from party prejudice. It was carried to such a height, that the Members of Parliament for several places were instructed to move the House for an inquiry into the affair ; and accordingly it was moved, in the House of Commons, that “ The letters-patent, granted to the Earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce.” Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of Lord Somers and the Earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates ; and it was even insinuated that the Earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders. Another motion was accordingly made, in the House of Commons, to address his Majesty that “ Kidd might not be tried till the next Session of Parliament, and that the Earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair.” This motion was carried, and the king complied with the request which was made. As soon as Kidd arrived in England he was sent for, and examined at the bar of the House of Commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition ; but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the House ; on which a Member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, “ This fellow ! I thought he had been only a knave, but unfortunately he happens

to be a fool likewise." Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence, but neither at that time nor afterwards charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings. He suffered with one of his companions, (Darby Mullins,) at Execution Dock, on the 23d day of May, 1701. After Kidd had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke,* and he fell to the ground; but, being immediately tied up again, the Ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and, on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations appeared to have the wished-for effect; and he was left professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

HERMAN STRODTMAN,

EXECUTED JUNE 18, 1701, FOR THE MURDER OF PETER WOLTER,
HIS FELLOW-APPRENTICE,

WAS a German, being born of a respectable family at Revel, in Lisland, who gave him a good education, and brought him up strictly in the tenets of the Protestant religion. About the year 1694 young Strodtman, with a friend and schoolfellow, named Peter Wolter, were, by their respective parents, sent in company to London, where they were both bound apprentices to the then eminent Dutch house of Stein and Dorien.

They served their masters some time with diligence, and lived together in great harmony, until a sister of Wolter married very advantageously, which so buoyed up the brother with pride that he assumed a superiority over his

* In cases of this distressing nature, and which hath often happened to the miserable sufferer, the sheriff ought to be punished. It is his duty to carry the sentence of the law into execution, and there can be no plea for not providing a rope of sufficient strength. In such a case as the last it is in fact a double execution, inflicting unnecessary torments, both of body and mind, on the already too-wretched culprit.

fellow-apprentice; and which led to the fatal catastrophe. This arrogance produced quarrelling, and from words they proceeded to blows, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice; at one time in the counting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-'prentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder, which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy; but, this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree, that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclination to be sent to the West Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew again uneasy, and his enmity to his fellow-'prentice increased to such a degree, that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission to his situation as the most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice, but determined on the execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good Friday Strodtman was sent out on business; but, instead of transacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday to perpetrate the murder; but, reflecting that his fellow-'prentice was to receive the sacrament on Easter-Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's supper: wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be
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sent to Chatham on Easter-Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy; but, while he was at Greenwich, he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messrs. Stein and Dorian he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to inquire into the real state of the case, when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter-Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and slept at the Dolphin inn, in Bishopsgate-street. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place, or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood, till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard-street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich; but, going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave no credit to this tale, but told him they had inquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun, in Queen-street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his masters' house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key; but, it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the Saturday last mentioned; but, hearing the footsteps of some persons going up stairs, he concealed himself behind a door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the counting-house, where he used to sleep, and, having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his master's dark lantern, which he carried up stairs to an empty room, next to that in which Peter
Wolter

Wolter used to lie. Here he continued a short time, when, hearing somebody coming up stairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock, he listened for a while; and, hearing no noise, he imagined that the whole family were fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-box lay; and, having lighted his candle, he went to the counting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and, going up stairs again, he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and, advancing to his bed-side, struck him violently on the head; and, though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and, laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen clothes; and, going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went up stairs again, and, having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair close to the bed-curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to have set the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle, and in this place he stayed till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen-street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Swedish church in Trinity-lane. After the worship of the congregation was ended, he heard a bill of thanks read which his masters had sent, in devout acknowledgment of the narrow escape that themselves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodtman burst into tears; but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the
same

same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of Messrs. Stein and Dorien narrowly escaped being burnt the preceding night, by an accident then unknown, but that the destruction was providentially prevented by the Dutch maid smelling the fire, and seeing the smoke, so that, on her alarming her master, the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer walks of the Royal Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church, and after service was ended, he walked towards Mile End, where he saw the bodies of Michael Van Berghen and Dromelius, who had been hung in chains, as before mentioned. This sight gave him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himself said, "his heart did not yet relent for what he had done; and, if he had failed in murdering his fellow-'prentice in his bed, he should have destroyed him some other way."

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse Inn without Cripplegate, to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds, which he had stolen from his masters' house; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard-street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said
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he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission: but before he left the house, the banker told him that a young man named Green had been to inquire for him; on which Strodtman said, that if Mr. Green returned, he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard-street, where his master, Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried by porters? and he replied, that he would go of his own accord. When he came there, he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty; but persisting that he was innocent, he was searched, and the 20*l.* bill found in his possession. They then inquired where he lodged? to which he answered, in Moorfields: whereupon they all went thither together, but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him, that if he would make a full discovery, he should be sent abroad out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills and other stolen effects, Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphrey Edwin, who committed him to Newgate on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first sessions after his commitment, and in the interval that he lay in prison, some bad people who were confined there trumped up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty; a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were so many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour

was remarkably contrite and penitent; and when the ordinary of Newgate acquainted him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would suffer in a few days, he said, "The Lord's will be done! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not, (as I deserve,) die an eternal death; and that though I die here, for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in heaven:" to which he added, "God bless the king, and all my honourable judges: they have done me no wrong, but it is I that have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me, a great sinner, else I perish."

At times he seemed to despair, because he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt; but then again his mind was occasionally warmed with the hope that his penitence was such as would lead to salvation.

When at the place of execution, he acknowledged his crime, for which he professed the sincerest sorrow and repentance; he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with presumptuous lies, to conceal those crimes, which being punished in this world, his eternal punishment in the next might be avoided. He died full of contrition, penitence, and hope; and suffered at Tyburn on the 18th June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hand lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

In the case of this unfortunate youth, while we abhor the foul deed which he committed, there arise circumstances which call for our pity for the infirmities of human nature. Like Zanga, he had received a blow; and like Zanga he long, and in secret, meditated revenge.

"One day (may that returning day be night,
The stain, the curse of each succeeding year!)
For something, or for nothing, in his pride
He struck me; while I tell it do I live?
He smote me on the cheek——."

The passion of revenge, stirred up by the devil alone, makes man a treacherous savage. This poison of the mind lurks awhile in sullen silence, only to make sure of its devoted victim. In the present instance, we find that the sacred barrier of religion, though it long interposed

posed its benign influence, was at length broken down. The approaching administration of the Holy Sacrament to the object of vengeance for the moment shed its protection ; and the murderer's constant attendance at church evinced the struggle of his conscience, before the infernal agent could assume his ascendancy. The influence of religion over this determined sinner, previous to the commission of the horrid act, must add a charm to the comfort we find in its true exercise. To religion, more than terrors of the law, do we owe our safety. The latter may be evaded, but a man cannot fly from his own conscience ; which, though sometimes tardily, will ever lead to its own punishment.

O 'tis a lovely thing for youth
To walk betimes in wisdom's way ;
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,
That we may trust to all they say. DR. WATTS.

From the whole of this malefactor's case, we may learn, that the direct road to happiness is through the path of integrity ; and that the indulgence of violent passions, whatever the provocation may be, is equally inconsistent with the laws of reason and the doctrines of Christianity.

MARY ADAMS,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THIS unhappy woman was born at Reading, in Berkshire, and when she was old enough to go to service, went to live with a grocer in that town. Mary being a girl of vivacity and genteel figure, she unfortunately attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of their connexion became very conspicuous in a short time.

As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born ; a circumstance that compelled the old gentleman to support her till she was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long before she went to London, and entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside, where, by prudent conduct, she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country ; for though she had already suffered by her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself ; but as their associations could not conveniently be held at home, they contrived to meet on evenings at other places, when the mistress of the house was gone to the theatre, or out on a visit.

This connexion continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy, when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained till she was delivered ; and in the mean time the connexion between her and her master continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying in, he told her that she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer ; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connexion to his wife, unless he would make her a present of twenty guineas ; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in possession of money, and in no want of clothes in which to make a genteel appearance, she removed from Hackney to Wych-street, without Temple-bar, but was scarcely settled in her new lodgings, before she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connexion that had subsisted between her late master and herself, but she did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The consequence was, that the mercer was obliged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and
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solicit his wife's pardon in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure, and passing as a young woman in her new lodgings, she was soon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood; but it was not long before he discovered the imposition that had been put on him, on which he embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended; but as her clothes were yet good, an attorney of Clement's-Inn took her into keeping; and after she had lived a short time with him, she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but on his marriage she was once more abandoned to seek her fortune.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to condescend to accept of a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury-lane, who was very glad of her assistance, and promised herself considerable advantage from the association. In this situation Mrs. Adams displayed her charms to a considerable advantage, and was as happy as any common prostitute can expect to be: but alas! what is this happiness but a prelude to the extremity of misery and distress? Such indeed it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her respecting the dividing of it, and a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house, after she had got a black eye in the contest.

After this she used to parade the park in the day-time, and walk the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers; at length she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, and few of her chance acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but continually escaped through defect of evidence.

But an end was soon put to her depredations, for having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent-garden, she picked his pocket of all his money, and a bank note

to a large amount, and left him while he was asleep. When the gentleman awaked, he sent immediate notice to the bank to stop payment; and as Mrs. Adams came soon after to receive the money for the note, she was taken into custody, and lodged in prison; and being in a short time tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 16th of June, 1702.

In contemplating the life of Mary Adams, and viewing the wretched state of thousands of unhappy females loitering through the streets of London, for the abhorred hire of prostitution, it is impossible to repress the tear of pity. Many of them, perhaps, originally seduced from a state of innocence, while they were the joy and comfort of their parents—many of them born and educated to expect a better fate, until deceived by falsehood and villany, they see their error when it is too late to recede. In this situation, abandoned by their relations and friends, deserted by their seducers, and at large upon the world, loathed and avoided by those who formerly held them in estimation, what are they to do? In the present unhappy state of things, they seem to have no alternative but to become the miserable instruments of promoting and practising that species of seduction and immorality of which they themselves are the victims.* And what is the result?—It is pitiable to relate.—They are compelled of necessity to mingle with the abandoned herd, who have long been practised in the walks of infamy, and they too become speedily polluted and depraved. Oaths, imprecations, and obscene language by degrees become familiar to their ears, and necessity compels them to endure, and at length to imitate, and practise in their turn, upon the unwary youth who too easily falls into the snare.

Thus it is, from the multitudes of those unhappy fe-

* It is in the first stage of seduction, before the female mind becomes vitiated and depraved, that Asylums are most useful. If persons in this unhappy situation had it in their power to resort to a medium, whereby they might be reconciled to their relations, while uncontaminated by the vices attached to general prostitution, numbers, who are now lost, might be saved to society.

males that assemble now in all parts of the town, that the morals of the youth are corrupted: that unnecessary expenses are incurred, and undue, and too often criminal, means are resorted to, for the purpose of gratifying passions which, but for those temptations which constantly assail them in almost every street of the metropolis, would not have been thought of. Through this medium apprentices, clerks, and other persons in trust, are seduced from the paths of honesty, masters are plundered, and parents are afflicted; while many a youth who might have become the pride of his family, a comfort to the declining years of his parents, and an ornament to society, exchanges a life of virtue and industry for the pursuits of the gambler, the swindler, and the vagabond. Nor is the lot of these poor deluded females less deplorable. Although some few of them may obtain settlements, while others bask for awhile in the temporary sunshine of ease and splendour, the major part end a short life in misery and wretchedness.

What has become of the multitudes of unfortunate females, elegant in their persons, and sumptuous in their attire, who were seen in the streets of the metropolis, and at places of public amusement twenty years ago? Alas! could their progress be developed, and their ultimate situations or exit from the world disclosed, it would lay open a catalogue of sufferings and affliction, beyond what the most romantic fancy could depict or exhibit to the feeling mind.

Exposed to the rude insults of the inebriated and the vulgar, the impositions of brutal officers and watchmen, and to the chilling blasts of the night during the most inclement weather, in thin apparel, partly in compliance with the fashion of the day, but more frequently from the pawnbroker's shop rendering their necessary garments inaccessible; diseases, where their unhappy vocation does not produce them, are generated. No pitying hand appears to help them in such situations. The feeling parent or relation is far off. An abandoned monster of the same sex, inured in the practice of infamy and seduction, instead of the consolation which sickness requires, threatens

threatens to turn the unhappy victim out of doors, when the means of subsistence are cut off, and the premium for shelter is no longer forthcoming; or perhaps the unfeeling landlord of a miserable half-furnished lodging afflicts the poor unhappy female by declarations equally hostile to the feelings of humanity, till at length, turned out into the streets, she languishes and ends her miserable days in an hospital or a workhouse, or perhaps perishes in some inhospitable hovel alone, without a friend to console her, or a fellow mortal to close her eyes in the pangs of dissolution.

If no other argument could be adduced in favour of some arrangements calculated to stop the progress of female prostitution, compassion for the sufferings of the unhappy victims would be sufficient; but other reasons occur, equally powerful, why this evil should be controlled.

To prevent its existence, even to a considerable extent, in so great a metropolis as London, is as impossible as to resist the torrent of the tides. It is an evil, therefore, which must be endured while human passions exist; but it is, at the same time, an evil, which may not only be lessened, but rendered less noxious and dangerous to the peace and good order of society: it may be stript of its indecency, and also of a considerable portion of the danger attached to it, to the youth of both sexes.

The lures for the seduction of youth passing along the streets in the course of their ordinary business, may be prevented by a police applicable to this object, without either infringing upon the feelings of humanity, or insulting distress; and still more is it practicable to remove the noxious irregularities which are occasioned by the indiscreet conduct, and the shocking behaviour of women of the town, and their still more blameable paramours, in openly insulting public morals, and rendering the situation of modest women at once irksome and unsafe, either in places of public entertainment, or while passing along the most public streets in the metropolis, particularly in the evening.

This unrestrained licence given to males and females in the walks of prostitution, was not known in former times
at

at places of public resort, where there was at least an affectation of decency. To the disgrace, however, of the police, the evil has been suffered to increase; and the boxes of the theatres often exhibit scenes which are certainly extremely offensive to modesty, and contrary to that decorum which ought to be maintained, and that protection to which the respectable part of the community are entitled against indecency and indecorum, when their families, often composed of young females, visit places of public resort.

In this instance, the enduring such impropriety of conduct, so contrary to good morals, marks strongly the growing depravity of the age. To familiarize the eyes and ears of the innocent part of the sex to the scenes which are often exhibited in the theatres is tantamount to carrying them to a school of vice and debauchery.

“Vice is a monster of such frightful mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft—familiar with her face,
We first endure—then pity—then embrace.”

For the purpose of understanding more clearly by what means it is possible to lessen the evils arising from female prostitution in the metropolis, it may be necessary to view it in all its ramifications.

In point of extent, it certainly exceeds credibility; but, although there are many exceptions, the great mass, whatever their exterior may be, are mostly composed of women who have been in a state of menial servitude, and of whom not a few, from the love of idleness and dress, with, in this case, the misfortune of good looks, have partly from inclination, not seldom from previous seduction and loss of character, resorted to prostitution as a livelihood.

They are still, however, objects of compassion; although, under the circumstances incident to their situation, they cannot be supposed to experience those poignant feelings of distress, which are peculiar to women who have moved in a higher sphere, and who have been better educated.

The whole may be estimated as follows:

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1. Of the class of well-educated women, it is earnestly hoped the number does not exceed	-	2,000
2. Of the class composed of persons above the rank of menial servants, perhaps	-	3,000
3. Of the class who may have been employed as menial servants, or seduced in very early life, it is conjectured, in all parts of the town, including Wapping and the streets adjoining the river, there may not be less, who live wholly by prostitution, than	-	30,000
		35,000
4. Of those, in different ranks in society, who live partly by prostitution, including the multitudes of low females who cohabit with labourers and others without matrimony, there may be in all, in the metropolis, about	-	25,000
	Total -	60,000

When a general survey is taken of the metropolis, the great numbers among the higher and middle classes of life who live unmarried, the multitudes of young men yearly arriving at the age of puberty, the strangers who resort to the metropolis, the seamen and nautical labourers employed in the trade of the river Thames, who amount at least to forty thousand, and the profligate state of society in vulgar life—the intelligent mind will soon be reconciled to the statement, which at first view would seem to excite doubts, and require investigation.

But whether the numbers of these truly unfortunate women are a few thousands less or more is of no consequence in the present discussion, since it is beyond all doubt that the evil is of a magnitude that is excessive, and imperiously calls for a remedy.—Not, certainly, a remedy against the possibility of female prostitution, for it has already been stated that it is a misfortune that must be endured in large societies, where vicious propensities are engendered and facilities afforded for the gratification of unlawful desires. All that can be attempted is, to divest it of

of the faculty of extending its noxious influence beyond certain bounds, and restrain those excesses and indecencies which have already been shewn to be so extremely noxious to society, and unavoidably productive of depravity and crimes.

THOMAS ESTRICK,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING ON THE 10th OF MARCH, 1703,

WAS born in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy shewed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation.

When the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he was of too unsettled a disposition to follow his business, and therefore engaged in the service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney; but he had not been long in this new place before his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the amount of above eighty pounds.

The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects; but such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the servant maids, who was turned out of the house with every circumstance of unmerited disgrace.

Estrick, having quitted this service, took a shop in Cock-alley, near Cripplegate church, where he carried on the business to which he was bred; and while in this station he courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was soon afterwards married. It should be remarked, that he had been instigated to rob his master, at Hackney, by some young fellows of a profligate disposition; and he had not been married more than half a year when these dissolute companions threatened to give him up to justice, if he refused to bribe them to keep the secret.

Estrick, terrified at the thoughts of a prosecution, gave them his note of hand for the sum they demanded; but when the note became due he was unable to pay it;

on which he was arrested, and lay some time in prison, but at length obtained his liberty in defect of the prosecution of the suit.

As soon as he was at large, he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock-alley; but, on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman who lodged and died in the room during his absence had left a box containing cash to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long-alley, Moorfields; but, his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be safe in that situation; and therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage; and therefore spent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

Soon after his return he found himself reduced to great distress; on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a housebreaker, a street-robber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end.

He was apprehended, tried, and convicted; and, in consequence thereof, was executed at Tyburn on the 10th of March, 1703, before he had attained the age of twenty seven years.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI,

MURDERER, EXECUTED ON THE 21st OF JULY, 1703.

IN this case, though the crime was of the most heinous nature, the perpetrator is entitled to some commiseration. He was a foreigner, had served the king of England with bravery as a soldier, and was inveigled by an artful female impostor into marriage. He did not seriously resent the trick played upon him, but continued his habits
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of industry and integrity, until, on being grossly assaulted by this woman, who had led him a wretched life, he killed her in the scuffle which ensued.

This unfortunate man was the son of Protestant parents, born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education; and, when he arrived at years of maturity, left his own country on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva. From thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the elector Brandenburg, who was afterwards king of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year he came over to England, and entered into the service of Lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel de la Meloniere. Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was dismissed from farther service; in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who pretended she had a great fortune, and was allied to the royal family of France; he soon married her, not only on account of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life. As soon as he had discovered that his wife had no fortune, he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer; but, being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city he went to London, and offered his service again to Lord Haversham, and was admitted as one of his domestics. His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at Lord Haversham's, which he would not consent to, saying, that his lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to
quit

quit his service, which he likewise refused, saying, that he could not provide for himself so well in any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master. The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition, and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman; and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that preyed upon her mind: Dramatti being attacked with a violent fever, about the Christmas preceding the time the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of him at his lordship's expense. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant girl came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife, suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which, he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity.

Dramatti, being recovered from his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so often as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. Lord Haversham took lodgings at Kensington, and Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, inflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and, as a proof of it, had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed. Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood; and, having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave; but she laid hold of him, and wanted to detain him.—
Having

Having got away from her, he went towards Charing-cross, to which place she followed him; but at length she seemed to yield to his persuasions that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his lord in Spring-gardens; instead, however, of going home, she went and waited for him at or near Hyde-park-gate, and in the evening he found her there, as he was going to Kensington. At the Park-gate she stopped him, and insisted that he should go no farther unless he took her with him. He left her abruptly, and went towards Chelsea; but she followed him till they came near Bloody-bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neckcloth, and would have strangled him, had not he beat her with his cane and sword, which latter she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength; and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him. Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and, falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty. He then went on to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his clothes were bloody, he said he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them. This story was credited for a short time, but on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper read in the streets, respecting the murder that had been committed.—Though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape, but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kensington. On the following day the servants heard an account of the murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge: they immediately hinted to his lordship that they suspected Dramatti had murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and as he came home the preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his clothes. Upon this, Lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim

terim sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.—When he was examined before a justice of peace, he confessed he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said, that his wife was a worthless woman who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune. On his trial it appeared that he went to Lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed he had an intention of robbing his lordship, who called out to know what he wanted. But, in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he steadfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, declaring he only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler, which he had forgot, that he might have it in readiness to take in some asses' milk in the morning for his lordship. The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde-park and Chelsea, and a tract of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession. The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn.

From this melancholy narrative the reader is taught to shun the vice of lying, and to dread jealousy as the most baneful of all the disorders of the mind. The two causes that contributed to the untimely death of this unhappy couple were those above mentioned: by a lie the woman seduced Dramatti to marry, and by her ill-founded jealousy, and ungovernable passion consequent thereon, provoked him to murder.

WILLIAM ELBY,

MURDERER, EXECUTED ON THE 13th OF SEPTEMBER, 1709,

WAS born in the year 1667, at Deptford, in Kent, and served his time with a block-maker, at Rotherhithe, during

during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he kept company with young fellows of such bad character, that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences. Having returned from sea, he enlisted as a soldier ; but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in order to support the women with whom he was connected. At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in house-breaking. Detection soon terminated his career ; and he was indicted for robbing the house of—— Barry, Esq. of Fulham, and murdering his gardener. Elby, it seems, having determined on robbing the house, arrived at Fulham soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery. As the gardener had a light in his hand, Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London.

Though this man, naturally inclined to gaiety, dressed in a style much above people of his profession, yet being at this juncture in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained ; and as every one was now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at Fulham, the idea immediately occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby, particularly as he began to abound in cash at this critical juncture.

Elby now used to frequent a public-house in the Strand, where, being casually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the subject of conversation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and seeing one of the company go out of the room, he was so terrified, that he immediately ran out of the house, without paying the reckoning. Soon after he was gone, a person called for him ; but as

he was not there, he said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder. On his trial he steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, had not a woman, with whom he cohabited, become an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the commission of the fact. Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him. The jury deeming this circumstance sufficient, Elby received sentence of death, and having been executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

EDWARD JEFFERIES,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 21ST OF SEPTEMBER, 1705,

WAS a gentleman by birth and education; and as such, until the commission of the crime for which he suffered, ever deported himself. His crime affords a melancholy instance of the fatal effects of illicit love and jealousy. He was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account: but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance. Soon after, he had the good success to marry a young lady of St. Alban's, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued his former course of dissipation, which

which naturally occasioned a separation. He now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom a Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates respecting this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue-posts, near Pall-Mall, on the day that the former committed the murder. After dinner they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them, respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword, and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. Woodcock had no sooner fallen, than Jefferies rubbed some of his blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torshell. There were some boys playing in the fields who saw the body of the deceased, and part of the transaction above-mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among a crowd of other people, to see it; and was taken into custody, on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressed great concern at his fate. Torshell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to belong to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate. Jefferies alleged, in his defence, that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; he called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. Mrs. Torshell was acquitted. All the while he lay under condemnation, he repeatedly denied having committed the murder, and exerted his utmost interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the medium of the Duke of Ormond. September the 19th, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's, a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; but on that day he was executed, his guilt

being too apparent. At the place of execution he again denied the fact; but said he freely forgave those who had injured him, and died in charity with all men. He betrayed no symptoms of fear during the preparation for launching him into eternity.

JOHN SMITH,

CONVICTED OF ROBBERY, ON THE 5th OF DECEMBER 1705.

THOUGH the crimes committed by this man were neither marked with particular atrocity, nor his life sufficiently remarkable for a place in these volumes; yet the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution are perhaps more singular than any we may have to record. He was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchantman, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service, when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connections, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a housebreaker.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence, he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve, through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out,
“Are-

“A reprieve!” Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding, and other proper applications.

When he perfectly recovered his senses, he was asked, what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows: “That when he was turned off, he, for some time was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards; that having forced their way to his head, he, as it were, saw a great blaze, or glaring light, which seemed to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut down, and began to come to himself, the blood and spirits, forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, by a sort of pricking or shooting, to such an intolerable pain that he could have wished those hanged who had cut him down.” From this circumstance he was called “Half-hanged Smith.”

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February; yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being apprehended, was tried at the Old Bailey for house breaking; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct showed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour; but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensation of Providence evidenced in his own person.

When once the mind has consented to the commission of sin, it is hard to be reclaimed. The memory of the pangs of an ignominious death could not deter this man
from

from following the evil course he had begun. Thus, by giving way to small propensities, we imperceptibly go on to enormities, which lead us to a shameful fate. Let us, therefore, at once resolve never to depart from the path of rectitude.

ROGER LOWEN,

CONVICTED OF MURDER, AND EXECUTED AT TURNHAM-GREEN, ON THE
25th OF OCTOBER, 1706,

WAS a native of Hanover, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being huntsman to the duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France, to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman, and, on his return from his travels, he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewsbury patronized him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time; but in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend King William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd, of Turnham-Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestable proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that on the evening of the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day; that Mr. Lloyd being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness; that when
he

he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room ; some time after which Lowen invited him into the garden, to see his plants ; after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner ; that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler ? and that while the deceased stood with his hand behind him, Lowen stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back ; on which his wife (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me, my dear ;" but he was unable to do so ; and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of peace in the neighbourhood passing by at the instant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened ; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death ; in consequence of which he was hanged at Turnham-Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under sentence of death, he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Rupert, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had committed ; and he became a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

Jealousy is the most dangerous passion of the mind. It generally proceeds from the extravagance of love. That jealousy which is moved by fond and sincere affection may be distinguished from the extravagance resulting from meanness and suspicion. When proceeding from real love, it must be owing to the suspicion of levity

in the object, which instantly conjures up a thousand frightful phantoms. We fear that the charms which have subdued us, have made the same impression on the heart of another. This is generally the foundation of jealousy in men, and is, by the immortal Shakespeare, called “a green-eyed monster,” which, once gaining ascendancy,

“Farewell the tranquil mind—farewell content.”

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN,

INCENDIARY, EXECUTED OCTOBER 24, 1707, IN ST. JAMES'S STREET, FOR
SETTING FIRE TO THE HOUSE OF MR. PERSUADE.

THE crime for which this man suffered is defined by the law to be ARSON, or ARSONRY ; that is, wilfully setting fire to another person's house, whether by day or by night.

It is in this case a capital offence ; but if a man burns his own house, without injuring any other, it is only a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, imprisonment, or the pillory.

By the 23d of Henry the Eighth, cap. 1, the capital part of the offence is extended to persons (whether principals or accessaries) burning dwelling houses ; or barns wherein corn is deposited ; and by the 43d of Elizabeth, cap. 13, burning barns or stacks of corn, in the four northern counties, is also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

By the 22d and 23d of Car. II. cap. 7, it is made felony to set fire to any stack of corn, hay, or grain ; or other out-building, or kilns, maliciously, in the night time ; punishable with transportation for seven years.

By the 1st George I. cap. 48, it is also made single felony to set fire to any wood, underwood, or coppice.

Other burnings are made punishable with death, without benefit of clergy, viz. setting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse, or to any hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay or wood ; or the rescuing any such offender ; 9 George I. cap. 22.—Setting fire to a coal mine: 10

George

George II. cap. 32. Burning, or setting fire to any wind-mill, water-mill, or other mill; (as also pulling down the same:) 9 George III. cap. 29; but the offender must be prosecuted within eighteen months. Burning any ship, to the prejudice of the owners, freighters, or underwriters: 22 and 23 Charles II. cap. 11; 1 Anne, stat. 2. cap. 9; 4 George I. cap. 12. Burning the king's ships of war afloat, or building; or the dock-yards, or any of the buildings, arsenals, or stores therein; 12 George III. cap. 24. And finally, threatening by anonymous or fictitious letters to burn houses, barns, &c. is by the act 27 George II. cap. 15. also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

John Herman Brian was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the service of a gentleman above four years, and then made the tour of Italy with a person of fortune. On his arrival in England, he lived in several reputable families for the space of about three years, and last of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade, when, being discharged, in about two days after he broke open, plundered, and burned, his dwelling house, for which he was brought to trial, on the 16th of October, 1707. It appeared in evidence, that the house was made fast about ten at night, when the family went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up her gold watch, etwee case chain, seventeen guineas, &c. that waking about three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which she left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards; then opening a parlour door the flames spread with such rapidity, that the family had only time to preserve their lives. A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brian) who said to her, "D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do here, knocking at people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away. It likewise came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee case to Messrs. Stevenson

and Acton, goldsmiths, for eight pounds ; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on enquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him. It appeared from the testimony of other evidence, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed ; and at noon on the following day, he left this lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects. It likewise appeared. that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him ; asserting, that he bought all the goods of a stranger ; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty, without the least hesitation. While under sentence of death, he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses, and jury ; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life ; however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declaration. He made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons ; but being detected, he was properly secured till the time of his execution ; and when asked by the ordinary of Newgate, how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered, that " Life was sweet, and that any other man, as well as himself, would endeavour to save it if he could." He suffered in St. James's-street, before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was hung in chains near the Gravel-pits, at Acton.

JOHN

JOHN HALL,

HOUSEBREAKER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 17th OF DECEMBER, 1707.

FROM the humble avocation of a chimney-sweeper, this fellow became a notorious and daring thief.

He was remarkably distinguished in his time, on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned ; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-head-court, Gray's-Inn-lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper, ; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pick-pocket ; and was accounted very dexterous in that profession ; but notwithstanding this dexterity, he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond : he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shop-lifter, and, in the month of January, 1628, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes ; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail ; but he had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he commenced house-breaker ; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hereof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices ; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind, Hall was tried and convicted in the year 1702, and being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker,

at Hackney ; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances :

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villains stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house ; but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a grand-daughter of the old people, and swore he would thrust her into the oven, if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds.

Notwithstanding this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open ; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's gate, about three in the morning ; and informing the watchman, they pursued them ; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped ; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew ; but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price ; but the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty, he returned to his former practices, and in October, 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career, wherefore he became

became an evidence against Chambers, Bell, and Fitch, three of his accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1707.

JOHN MORGRIDGE,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 28th OF APRIL, 1708.

WE now present a dreadful instance of the effects of intoxication. This unfortunate man, who, through the indulgence in this vice, met an untimely fate, was a native of Canterbury, whose ancestors had served the crown for upwards of two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse-guards for a considerable time, and would have been promoted, had it not been for the following unfortunate quarrel.

A Mr. Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin tavern, in Tower-street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope. When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depositing half-a-crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard-room, to which place more liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard-room, she remained a short time, and then said, "Who will pay for my coach?" Morgridge said, "I will;" having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language. Morgridge's rudeness was
resented

resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge, inflamed with passion, drew his sword, and stabbed Cope, who instantly expired.

Morgridge being taken into custody, was tried at the Old Bailey, July 5, 1706; but a doubt arising in the breast of the jury, whether he was guilty of the murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges. The judges having consequently met at Serjeant's-inn, the case was argued before them by counsel; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention. Morgridge, in the interim, made his escape from the Marshalsea prison, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years: but being uneasy to revisit his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and being apprehended, received sentence of death, and suffered along with William Gregg, at Tyburn, on the 28th of April, 1708. When convicted he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with becoming resignation.

WILLIAM GREGG,

TRAITOR, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 28th OF APRIL, 1708.

HIGH Treason is by the law accounted the highest civil crime which can be committed by any member of the community. After various alterations and amendments made and repealed in subsequent reigns, the definition of this offence was settled as it originally stood, by the act of the 25th of Edward III. stat. 5, cap. 2, and may be divided into seven different heads:

1. Com-

1. Compassing, or imagining, the death of the king, queen, or heir apparent.

2. Levying war against the king in his realm.

3. Adhering to the king's enemies, and giving them aid, in the realm, or elsewhere.*

4. Slaying the king's chancellor or judge in the execution of their offices.

5. Violating the queen, the eldest daughter of the king, or the wife of the heir apparent, or eldest son.

6. Counterfeiting the king's great seal, or privy seal.

7. Counterfeiting the king's money, or bringing false money into the kingdom.

This detail shews how much the dignity and security of the king's person is confounded with that of his officers, and even with his effigies impressed on his coin. To assassinate the servant, or to counterfeit the type, is held as criminal as to destroy the sovereign.

This indiscriminate blending of crimes, so different and disproportionate to their nature, under one common head, is certainly liable to great objections, seeing that the judgment in this offence is so extremely severe and terrible, viz. "that the offender be drawn to the gallows on the ground or pavement; that he be hanged by the neck, and then cut down alive; that his entrails be taken out and

* It has been thought necessary by the legislature to explain and enlarge these clauses of the act 25 Edward III. as not extending, with sufficient explicitness, to modern treasonable attempts. It is therefore provided by the act 36 George III. cap. 7, "That if any person (during the life of his present Majesty, and until the end of the session of Parliament next after a demise of the crown) shall, within the realm, or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend, death or destruction, or any bodily harm, tending to death, or destruction, maim or wounding, imprisonment or restraint, of the person of the king, his heirs and successors, or to deprive or depose him or them from his style, honour, or kingly name, or to levy war against the king within this realm, in order by force to compel him to change his measures, or in order to put any force or constraint upon, or to intimidate or overawe, both houses, or either house, of Parliament: or to incite any foreigner to invade the dominions of the crown: and such compassings, &c. shall express, utter, or declare, by publishing and printing or writing, or by any other overt act or deed,"—the offender shall be deemed a traitor, and punished accordingly.

burnt

burnt, while yet alive ; that his head be cut off ; that his body be divided into four parts ; and that his head and quarters be at the king's disposal.

William Gregg was born at Montrose, in Scotland, and having received the common instructions in the grammar-school of that town, finished his education in the university of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the study of divinity ; but his inclination leading him to seek for advancement in the state, he came to London, and soon afterwards went abroad as secretary to the ambassador to the court of Sweden.

Gregg, during his residence abroad, debauched a Swedish lady, and was guilty of some other irregularities ; in consequence of which the ambassador dismissed him from his service, and he was glad to embark for London in the first ship that sailed.

As soon as he arrived in London, he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write despatches ; and letters of great importance were left unsealed, and perused by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor, which was given by the ordinary of Newgate, is very superficial and unsatisfactory, we shall give the following extracts respecting him, from Bishop Burnet's history :

“ At this time two discoveries were made very unlucky for Mr. Harley: Tallard wrote often to Chamillard, but he sent letters open to the secretary's office, to be perused and sealed up, and so be conveyed by the way of Holland. These were opened upon some suspicion in Holland, and it appeared, that one in the secretary's office put letters in them, in which, as he offered his service to the courts of France and St. Germain's so he gave an account of all transactions here. In one of these he sent a copy of the letter that the queen was to write in her own hand to the emperor ; and he marked what parts were drawn by the secretary, and what additions were made to it by the lord treasurer. This was the letter by which the queen pressed the sending prince Eugene into Spain ; and this, if not intercepted, would have been at Versailles many days before it could reach Vienna.

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“ He who sent this wrote, that by this they might see what service he could do them, if well encouraged. All this was sent over to the Duke of Marlborough; and upon search it was found to be written by one Gregg, a clerk, whom Harley had not only entertained, but had taken into a particular confidence, without inquiring into the former parts of his life; for he was a vicious and a necessitous person, who had been secretary to the queen’s envoy in Denmark, but was dismissed by him for his ill qualities. Harley had made use of him to get him intelligence, and he came to trust him with the perusal and sealing up of the letters, which the French prisoners, here in England, sent over to France, and by that means he got into the method of sending intelligence thither. He, when seized on, either upon remorse or hopes of pardon, confessed all, and signed his confession; upon that he was tried, and, pleading guilty, was condemned as a traitor, for corresponding with the queen’s enemies.

“ At the same time Valiere and Bara, whom Harley had employed as his spies to go over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing him intelligence, were informed against as spies employed by France to get intelligence from England, who carried over many letters to Calais and Boulogne, and, as was believed, gave such information of our trade and convoys, that by their means we had made our great losses at sea. They were often complained of upon suspicion, but they were always protected by Harley; yet the presumptions against them were so violent, that they were at last seized on, and brought up prisoners.”

The Whigs took such advantage of this circumstance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign, and his enemies were inclined to carry matters still further, and were resolved, if possible, to find out evidence enough to affect his life. With this view, the house of lords ordered a committee to examine Gregg, and the other prisoners, who were very assiduous in the discharge of their commission, as will appear by the following account written by the same author :

“ The lords, who were appointed to examine Gregg, could not find out much by him ; he had but newly begun his designs of betraying secrets, and he had no associates with him in it. He told them, that all the papers of state lay so carelessly about the offices that every one belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might have read them all. Harley’s custom was to come to the office late on post-nights, and after he had given his orders, and wrote his letters, he usually went away, and left all to be copied out when he was gone. By that means he came to see every thing, in particular the queen’s letter to the emperor. He said, he knew the design on Toulon in May last, but he did not discover it ; for he had not entered on his ill-practices till October. This was all he could say.

“ By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and of many others who lived about Dover, and were employed by them, a discovery was made of a constant intercourse they were in with Calais, under Harley’s protection. They often went over with boats full of wool, and brought back brandy, though both the import and export were severely prohibited. They, and those who belonged to the boats carried over by them, were well treated on the French side at the governor’s house, or at the commissary’s : they were kept there till their letters were sent to Paris, and till returns could be brought back, and were all the while upon free cost. The order that was constantly given them was, that if an English or Dutch ship came up with them, they should cast their letters into the sea, but that they should not do it when French ships came up with them : so they were looked on by all on that coast as the spies of France. They used to get what information they could, both of merchant-ships, and of the ships of war that lay in the Downs, and upon that they usually went over ; and it happened that soon after some of those ships were taken. These men, as they were Papists, so they behaved themselves insolently, and boasted much of their power and credit.

“ Complaints had been often made of them, but they
were

were always protected; nor did it appear that they ever brought any information of importance to Harley but once, when according to what they swore, they told him that Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk, to lie in wait for the Russian fleet; which proved to be true; he both went to watch for them, and he took the great part of the fleet. Yet though this was a single piece of intelligence that they ever brought, Harley took so little notice of it, that he gave no advertisement to the admiralty concerning it. This particular excepted, they only brought over common news, and the Paris gazetteer. These examinations lasted for some weeks: when they were ended, a full report was made of them to the house of lords, and they ordered the whole report, with all the examinations, to be laid before the queen."

Gregg was convicted on the statute of Edward the Third, which declares it high treason "to adhere to the king's enemies, or to give them aid either within or without the realm."

Immediately after this conviction, both houses of Parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed; and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Morgridge, on the 28th of April, 1701.

Gregg, at the place of execution, delivered a paper to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, declared his sincere repentance of all his sins, particularly that lately committed against the queen, whose forgiveness he devoutly implored.

He likewise expressed his wish to make all possible reparation for the injuries he had done; begged pardon, in a particular manner, of Mr. Secretary Harley, and testified the perfect innocence of that gentleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly, or indirectly, to his writing to France. He professed that he died an unworthy member of the Protestant church; and that the want of money to supply his extravagances had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which cost him his life.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, DEC. 17, 1708, FOR MURDER.

IN this case we shall disclose one of the most consummate tricks ever played by woman, to defraud her creditors; and a more effectual method cannot be resorted to. It is a satisfaction, however, that during the perusal of the fate of Deborah Churchill, we know that Fleet marriages have long been declared illegal; and therefore the artifice cannot now be so easily accomplished. Formerly, within the liberties of the Fleet, the clergy could perform the marriage rites, with as little ceremony as at Gretna Green, where, to the disgrace of the British empire, an ignorant blacksmith, or a fellow equally mean and unfit, assumes this sacred duty of the church.

Though this woman's sins were great, (yet we must admit some hardship, in her suffering the utmost rigour of the law for the crime, for which she was found guilty,) but which, at the same time, is, in the eye of the law great as in the immediate perpetrator of a murder. Here we deem it well to observe, that any person present while murder is committing, and though he may take no part in the commission of the crime, yet unless he does his utmost to prevent, he is considered guilty, equal with him who might have given the fatal blow.

Deborah Churchill was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill; but her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness, he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event, came to London; and being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and, in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public-house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked him if he would marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative,
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on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden-name is unknown, having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her husband to drink till he was quite inebriated, and then gave him the slip, happy in this contrivance to screen herself from an arrest.

A little after this, she cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom she lived more than six years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakish disposition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to distraction; and, at length, forfeited her life in consequence of the regard that she had for him.

One night as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the Theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords;* while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance; in consequence of which, being off his guard, he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed, than Hunt effected his escape, and, eluding his pursuers, arrived safely, in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the spot, and being taken before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

November, 1708, at the sessions held at the Old-Bailey, Mrs. Churchill was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the first year of king James the first called the statute of stabbing, by which it is enacted, that "If any one stabs another, who hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath not first stricken the party who stabs, is deemed guilty of murder, if the person stabbed dies within six months afterwards."

Mrs. Churchill, being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons-being impannelled, declared that they were ig-

* In those days every well-dressed man wore his sword: a fashion productive of infinite mischief.

norant whether she was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months ; at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

This woman's behaviour was extremely penitent; but she denied her guilt to the last moment of her life, having no conception that she had committed murder, because she did not herself stab the deceased. She suffered at Tyburn, 17th of Dec. 1708.

CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD,

EXECUTED AT GUILDFORD, JULY 9, 1709, FOR THE MURDER OF JANE YOUNG.

THIS is a very singular case, and will excite different opinions respecting this unhappy man's commission of the deed for which he was executed.

He was the son of a miller at Westbury-green, in Surry, who apprenticed him at Godalming. When his time was expired, he lived in several situations, and afterwards took a malt-house at Shalford, when his aunt became his housekeeper, and he acquired a moderate sum of money by his industry.

He now paid his addresses to Jane Young, and it was generally supposed he intended to marry her. The last time he was seen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1702 ; from which day she was not heard of for a considerable time, on which suspicions arose that Slaughterford had murdered her.

About a month afterwards, the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with several marks of violence on it ; and the public suspicion being still fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily surrendered himself to two justices of the peace, who directed that he should be discharged ; but as he was still accused by his neighbours, he went to a third magistrate, who, agreeable to his own solicitations, committed him to the Marshalsea Prison ; and he was tried at the next assizes at Kingston, and acquitted.

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The majority of his neighbours, however, still insisted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceased to bring an appeal for a new trial; towards the expense of which many persons subscribed, as the father of Jane Young was in indigent circumstances.

During the next term, he was tried, by a Surry jury, in the court of Queen's-Bench, before lord chief justice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased.

The evidence given on this second trial was the same in substance as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death. It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young, deposed, that when the young woman left her service, she said she was going to be married to the prisoner, that she had purchased new clothes on the occasion, and declared she was to meet him on the Sunday following. That the deponent sometime afterwards inquired after Jane Young, and, asking if she was married, was informed that she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman; which had induced this witness to believe that some mischief had befallen her.

Other witnesses proved that Jane Young was in company with the prisoner on the night that the murder was committed; and one man swore that, at three in the morning, he met a man and woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from the place where the body was found; that the man wore light coloured clothes, as it was proved the prisoner had done the preceding day; and that soon after he passed them he heard a shrieking, like the voice of a woman.

It was sworn by a woman, that, after the deceased was missing, she asked Slaughterford what was become of his lady: to which he replied, "I have put her off; do you know

know of any girl that has any money? I have got the way of putting them off now."

It was deposed by another woman, that, before the discovery of the murder, she said to Mr. Slaughterford, "What if Jane Young should lay such a child to you as mine is here!" at which he sighed, and said, "It is now impossible;" and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

In contradiction to this, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford and a young lad who lived in the house deposed, that the prisoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed.

Slaughterford, from the time of conviction to the very hour of his death, solemnly declared his innocence; and, though visited by several divines who urged him, by all possible arguments, to confess the fact, yet he still persisted that he was not guilty. He was respited from the Wednesday, till Saturday, in which interim he desired to see Mr. Woodroof, a minister of Guildford: from which it was thought he would make a confession; but what he said to him tended only to confirm his former declarations.

As soon as the executioner had tied him up, he threw himself off, having previously delivered to the sheriff a paper, containing the following solemn declaration:

Guildford, July 9, 1709.

"Being brought here to die, according to the sentence passed upon me at the Queen's-Bench bar, for a crime of which I am wholly innocent, I thought myself obliged to let the world know, that they may not reflect on my friends and relations, whom I have left behind me much troubled for my fatal end, that I know nothing of the death of Jane Young, nor how she came by her death, directly or indirectly, though some have been pleased to cast reflections on my aunt. However, I freely forgive all my enemies, and pray to God to give them a due sense of their errors, and in his due time to bring the truth to light. In the mean time, I beg every one to forbear reflecting on my dear mother, or any of my relations, for my unjust and unhappy fall, since what I have here set down
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is, truth, and nothing but the truth, as I expect salvation at the hands of Almighty God ; but I am heartily sorry that I should be the cause of persuading her to leave her dame, which is all that troubles me. As witness my hand this 9th day of July.”

We have already observed, that the case of Slaughterford is very extraordinary. We see that he surrendered himself to the justices when he might have ran away ; and common sense tells us that a murderer would endeavour to make his escape ; and we find him a second time surrendering himself, as if anxious to wipe away the stain on his character. We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted ; then again tried, on an appeal by another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, condemned, and executed. Here it should be observed, that after conviction on an appeal,* which rarely happens, the king *has no power to pardon* ; probably, had Slaughterford been found guilty by the first jury, as his case was dubious, he would have received royal mercy. Some of the depositions against him seem very striking ; yet the testimony in his favour is equally clear. There appears nothing in the former part of his life to impeach his character ; there is no proof of any animosity between him and the party murdered ; and there is an apparent contradiction in part of the evidence against him. He is represented by one female witness as sneering at and highly gratified with the murder ; while another proves him extremely affected and shedding tears on the loss of Jane Young. The charitable reader must, therefore, be inclined to think this man was innocent, and that he fell a sacrifice to the prejudices, laudable, perhaps, of his incensed neighbours. He was visited, while under sentence of death, by a number of divines ; yet he died with the most sacred averment of his innocence.

* The ancient law granting the right of appeal, gave to the accused the power of summoning the appellant to single combat, denominated *Wager of Battle*, but as such an exhibition in a modern court of justice would be an extraordinary occurrence, Parliament repealed the law in the year 1819.

GRACE TRIPP,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MARCH 27, 1710, FOR MURDER.

IN the perpetration of this horrid murder we are greatly shocked to find base perfidy added to great cruelty in the breast of a female. In order to support the extravagance of a villain, with whom this wretched woman had secret amours, she betrayed her trust, and in hopes of concealing the crime, murdered her fellow-servant.

Grace Tripp was a native of Barton in Lincolnshire ; and, after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, was sometime in a reputable family, and then procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service she became connected with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing her master's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it was concerted between them that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all of the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town ; but this housekeeper, hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate ; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas ; with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, who were taken in a few days, when Peters having been admitted an evidence for the crown, Grace Tripp was convicted and executed at the age of nineteen years.

The admission of Peters, an offender of the greatest magnitude, as evidence against the girl, could only have arisen from a strong sense of the enormity of the crime, when servants betray the confidence reposed in them by their masters. In this case a self-convicted murderer
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was pardoned, to strengthen the evidence against one whose culpability was heightened by breach of trust.

DANIEL DEMAREE,

EXECUTED JUNE 15, 1710, FOR TREASON,

WAS waterman to Queen Anne, whose whig ministry having been turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, having resigned, their places, the tory ministry succeeded them, and encouraged a young divine, named Henry Sacheverell, to inflame the passions of the public, by preaching against the settlement made at the Revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of what was called the High Church party. Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with. The doctor's discourses accordingly tended to instigate the people against the House of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the Pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion, that it became necessary to bring him to a trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the House of Peers, and was silenced for three years, upon conviction.

But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet: and some of them were led to commit outrages which gave rise to several trials, particularly that of Daniel Demaree, who, on the 19th April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs, to levy war against the Queen. A gentleman deposed that, going through the Temple, he saw some thousands of people who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminster-hall; that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house that night; others differed as to the time of doing it; but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demolished on the following

ing night. Here it should be observed, that Dr. Burgess and Mr. Bradbury were two dissenting ministers, who had made themselves conspicuous by preaching in opposition to Sacheverell's doctrine.

Captain Orril swore, that, on the 1st of March, hearing that the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, he resolved to go among them to do what service he could to Government by making discoveries. This witness, going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's-inn-fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said,—“Damn it, I will lead you on—we will have all the meeting-houses down—High Church and Sacheverell, huzza !”

It was proved by another evidence, that the prisoner having headed part of the mob, some of them proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild-street; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-lane, saying, “That meeting-house was worth ten of that in Wild-street.”

John Collier swore, that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's-inn-fields, huzzaing, and crying, “High Church and Sacheverell.” There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts; and several persons appeared in his behalf; but, as in their testimony they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence, but brought in a special verdict.

Another of the rioters (George Purchase, who was also waterman to the Queen,) was indicted for the same offence; the witnesses were chiefly the same, and their evidence almost similar: Captain Orril swore, that this prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards; and, if one of the guards had not given a spring and beat down the sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank; that the prisoner, however, retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob,
having

having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action. This prisoner also produced some witnesses ; but as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidence against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs ; but, having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict.

The verdicts respecting Demaree and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the Court of Queen's Bench, in Westminster-hall, the following term, before the Lord Chief Justice Parker, and the other Judges, when, though every artifice in the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty : in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

It is well known that towards the close of the reign of Queen Anne, political disputes were carried to a very unusual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of *High Church* and *Low Church* ; but though the church was the word, religion was almost out of the question, and the principal object of dispute was of a political kind. The question was whether the House of Hanover, or the family of Stuart, should sway the sceptre of these kingdoms ; and so prevalent was the *cacoethes disputandi*, that tradesmen left their counters, and mechanics their tools, to enforce their opinions on this important question.

I saw a blacksmith with his anvil, thus,
Swallowing a tailor's news.

SHAKSPEARE.

RICHARD THORNHILL, ESQ.

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER, IN KILLING SIR CHOLMONDELEY
DEERING, IN A DUEL.

THE abhorred and sanguinary practice of duelling offers to the understanding, in the influence it is found to have over strong and enlightened minds, a paradox most bewildering and humiliating. While reason and common sense exclaim against the folly of duelling—while religion, in its loudest voice, condemns its iniquity—while the laws of a nation load it with penalties, and rank it as a foul crime—while the popular cry is loud against its mischiefs,

mischiefs, and when no one is hardy enough to defend it; we daily hear that men of the first rank in society make this appeal to violence, fearless of legal prevention and legal penalties. Husbands and fathers leave their wives and children in their morning's slumber, steal from their pillows to obey the false dictates of honour, and too often, as their families rise from their beds, are they presented with the bleeding bodies of their protectors. We see two seconds in this scene of blood, with daring effrontery, retailing in the public prints, the particulars of the cruel encounter. In some of the republican States of America these outrages to all the parties are punished with confiscation of their lands, and banishment, even on proof of sending or accepting of a challenge.* In many other parts of the world, duelling meets with severer punishment than that inflicted by the laws of England. The lands of the murderer, at least, should be divided between the injured country and the miserable family of the fallen. The English laws prepare an adequate punishment for every offence except duelling, for which the murderer too often escapes with impunity.

In addition to the horrors which this practice, unworthily styled "fashionable satisfaction," creates, it generally generates among friends of long standing. Such were, previous to this fatal quarrel, Sir Cholmondeley Deering and Mr. Thornhill, who had dined together on

* Owing to this severe but wholesome law, Americans appear more eager, than otherwise, to settle their quarrels by duel. To accomplish their inhuman and unlawful purpose, they generally journey into another state, where, as each enact their own laws, the murderers generally escape punishment, and save their lands, which cannot be confiscated for an offence committed out of their own state's jurisdiction. Sometimes they travel to Canada, that they may indulge their malice in violation of the British laws. An instance of this kind appeared lately in the London newspapers, copied from an American print:

"Messrs. Blake and Dix, residents at Boston, recently determined to settle an affair of honour by duel. They repaired to Canada. The distance was to be ten paces the first fire, and to approximate two paces till one or the other fell. They both fired together, and Blake's ball entered the lungs of Dix. Dix's ball grazed the cheek of Blake. Before Dix fell, he said to his second, 'Give me the other pistol, that I may hit him, for I find he has winged me.' The second, finding he was wounded, stepped up to support him, but he fell, and immediately expired."

the

the 7th of April, 1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton Court, where a quarrel arose, which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr. Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon; but Mr. Thornhill said, that asking pardon was not a proper retaliation for the injury that he had received; adding, "Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me." Soon after this the company broke up, and the parties went home in different coaches, without any farther steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April, Sir Cholmondeley went to the Coffee-house at Kensington, and asked for Mr. Thornhill, who not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant shewed him to the dining-room, to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands, and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill-fields, and there advanced towards each other, in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost in the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away, when a person stopped him, and told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before a justice of the peace, who committed him.

On the 18th of May, 1711, Richard Thornhill, Esq. was indicted at the Old Bailey Sessions, for this murder. In the course of this trial, the above recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced, of which the following is a copy:—

"SIR,

"April 8th, 1711.

"I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting, with your sword and pistols,

pistols, which I insist on. The worthy gentleman, who brings you this, will concert with you the time and place. I think Tothill-fields will do well ; Hyde-park will not, at this time of year, being full of company.

“ I am your humble servant,

“ RICHARD THORNHILL.”

Mr. Thornhill's servant swore, that he believed this letter to be his master's hand-writing ; but Mr. Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any regard to this testimony, as the boy had acknowledged in court that he never saw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called several witnesses to prove how ill he had been used by Sir Cholmondeley ; that he had languished some time of the wounds he had received, during which he could take no other sustenance than liquids, and that his life was in imminent danger.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of Mr. Thornhill, it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley, being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage, replied, “ No : poor Thornhill, I am sorry for him ; this misfortune was my own fault, and of my owing seeking ; I heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him ; and that one misfortune may not occasion another.”

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manslaughter ; in consequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

ELIZABETH MASON,

EXECUTED JUNE 18, 1712, FOR THE MURDER OF HER GODMOTHER.

It is with additional regret that we are obliged to record the commission of this abhorred crime, by females. From the present case, let servants be deterred from the aggravation to this sin in the murder of their employers : and may its disclosure put a total stop to the vending of deleterious

leterious drugs to ignorant and wicked people. Deathly poison will be found, in the perusal of these Volumes, to be a common resort for murderers; and in fact, a fine, at least, ought to be imposed on every vender of medicines, who sells arsenic, opium, and similar articles of their trade to strangers.

This wretched woman was born at Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and, while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scholes: who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived, and was employed in household work; but having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, she came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison. On Thursday in Easter week, 1712, being sent on an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenic, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scholes drank; and soon afterwards, finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies. Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her: in consequence of which she went again to the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenic, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast, on the following morning. It happening, providentially, that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time most of the arsenic sunk to the bottom. She then drank some of it, found herself very ill; and, observing the sediment at the bottom of the basin, sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled. Unfavourable suspicion now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and, being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate. On

the 6th of June, in the same year, she was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Scholes ; and, pleading guilty to the indictment, received sentence of death. While she lay under sentence, the Ordinary of Newgate asked her if she had any lover or other person who had tempted her to the commission of the crime : to which she answered in the negative, but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty. At the time of her execution, she warned young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

ELIZABETH CHIVERS,

EXECUTED AUGUST 1, 1712, FOR THE MURDER OF HER BASTARD CHILD.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilful murder of her female bastard child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond ; and, pleading guilty, she received sentence of death.

This unnatural woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself, after she was under sentence of death, was as follows:—She said that her father dying while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go to service when she was only fourteen years of age ; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When she arrived almost at the age of thirty years, she lived with one Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him ; in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered.

Finding herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptized by the name of Elizabeth

Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward, discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make her appearance.

Enraged by this circumstance, she was tempted to destroy her child: on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney; but some people near the spot, happening to see what passed, took her into custody, and carried her before a magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy prison, her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crime of which she had been guilty: and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she spoke to a clergyman who attended her: "Oh, Sir! I am lost! I cannot pray, I cannot repent; my sin is too great to be pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood: I was not driven to it by necessity. The father had all the while provided for me, and for the child, and would have done so still, had I not destroyed the child, and thereby sought my own destruction."

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON,

CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER, AS SECOND IN A DUEL BETWEEN THE
DUKE OF HAMILTON AND LORD MAHON.

No occurrence, short of a national misfortune, at this time engaged the public equal to the memorable duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mahon: and no crime of this nature was ever committed with more sanguinary dispositions. The principals murdered each other, and Mr. Hamilton was one of the seconds. Previous to reading the shocking particulars of this transaction, the reader will do well again to turn to our comments on this crime in the case of Mr. Thornhill.

John Hamilton, Esq. of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th

of September 1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mahon, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding; and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mahon, and George Macartney, Esq. in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon: and having pleaded "not guilty" to these indictments, the evidence proceeded to give their testimony in substance as follows:—

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mahon, proved that his master having met the Duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a master in Chancery, on Thursday the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home that night, he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney. That on the Saturday morning about seven o'clock, this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde Park; and, seeing the Duke of Hamilton's coach going that way, he got over the Park-wall; but, just as he arrived at the place where the duellists were engaged, he saw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds. One of whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said, "We have made a fine piece of work of it."

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns; and, from what could be recollected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation: and some of the Duke's servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed, that, "As he was walking his horses towards Hyde Park, he followed a hackney coach with two gentlemen in it, whom he saw alight by the lodge, and walk together towards the left part of the ring, where they were about a quarter of an hour, when he saw two other gentlemen come to them; that, after having saluted each other, one of them,

them, who he was since told was the Duke of Hamilton, threw off his cloak, and one of the other two, who he now understands was Lord Mahon, his surtout coat, and all immediately drew: that the Duke and Lord pushed at each other but a very little while, when the Duke closed, and took the Lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned, and the Duke fell upon him; that just as Lord Mahon was dropping, he saw him lay hold of the Duke's sword, but could not tell whether the sword was at that time in his body; nor did he see any wound given after the closing, and was sure Lord Mahon did not shorten his sword. He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but they had their swords in their hands, assisting the Lords."

Paul Boussier, a surgeon, swore, that, on opening the body of the Duke of Hamilton, he found a wound between the second and third ribs, which entered into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above.

Henry Amie, a surgeon, swore, that, he found the Duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death; and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the Lord Mahon's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of the thigh; a large wound, about four inches wide, in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side; and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the prisoner was, that "the Duke

Duke called on him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field."

Some Scottish noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest, and inoffensive: and the jury, having considered the affair, gave a verdict of "manslaughter;" in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell by the hands of the seconds; and some late writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did any thing arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion; it is, therefore, but justice to the memory of all the parties to discredit such insinuations.

WILLIAM JOHNSON & JANE HOUSDEN,

EXECUTED OPPOSITE THE OLD BAILEY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1712, FOR THE
MURDER OF MR. SPURLING.

THROUGHOUT the whole annals of our Criminal Chronology, though the denial of culprits condemned on the clearest evidence of their guilt is by far too frequently recorded, we shall surely not adduce such an instance as the following dying declarations of innocence:

William Johnson, one of the unrelenting sinners, was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and removing to London, opened a shop in Newport Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a publichouse near Christ Church in Surrey. Being equally unsuccessful as a victualler, he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the
garrison;

garrison ;* in short, he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employments. Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon. Previous to this he had been acquainted with one Jane Housden, the other hardened wretch, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but also obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon, (which was procured by great interest,) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her ; but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not speak to her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the Court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials ; Mrs. Housden at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this singular murder. The event had no sooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder ; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death. From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed ; and notwithstanding the publicity of their offence, to which there were so many witnesses, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives : nor did they shew any signs of compunction for their former sins.—After hanging the usual time, Johnson was hung in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

* This, though very true, may, by some, be deemed a singular promotion—from a butcher to a surgeon!

RICHARD TOWN,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, DECEMBER 23, 1712, FOR FRAUDULENT
BANKRUPTCY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the law makes it death to any bankrupt, who shall be convicted of fraudulently concealing, embezzling or making away with any goods or money to the value of twenty pounds, yet offences of this nature are constantly committed in the most clandestine manner; and too often escape detection.

On the trial of Richard Town, who was the first that suffered under this Act of Parliament, which passed only five years before his execution, a number of witnesses were called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed, that, being sent after the prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupts, he apprehended him at Sandwich; and searching him, by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pounds, seven shillings, and sixpence, in silver; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers; that he took from him the gold, and five pounds in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to sail in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but, being too late, he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend; and, being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel; and, stooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising at sea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich; in consequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgson, as above mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commissioners, he acknowledged that he had ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books and accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewise to convey a large quantity of tallow, which he supposed was then arrived in Holland.

Now the counsel for Town insisted, that, as Norris
was

was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both ; and that he could not legally be convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account : besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich, by Mr. Hodgson, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors' money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt ; wherefore the jury did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for some time had carried on a considerable business as a tallow-chandler, with great reputation ; but it appears too evident that he had formed a design of defrauding his creditors, because at the time of his absconding, he had considerable property in the funds, and was otherwise in good circumstances.

Before his conviction, he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard ; but after sentence was passed on him, he was put into the condemned hold with the other prisoners ; here he caught a violent cold, which brought on a deafness, a disorder to which he had been subject ; wherefore, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence of death, he refused to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, declaring that a person whom he had relieved, and preserved from ruin, had occasioned his destruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewise forgive them. He was exactly forty-one years of age the day of his execution ; a circumstance which, with great composure, he mentioned to the ordinary of Newgate, on his way to the place of execution.

RICHARD NOBLE,

EXECUTED AT KINGSTON, MARCH 28, 1713, FOR THE MURDER OF
MR. SAYER.

WE forbear to comment upon that part of this shocking transaction which relates to the female sex ; and happy should we be, if our duty permitted us to consign to oblivion imputations upon those who were by nature formed to be the friend and comfort of man.

Richard Noble, we are sorry to say, was an attorney at law, and the paramour of Mrs. Sayer, wife of John Sayer, Esq. who was possessed of about one thousand pounds a year, and lord of the manor of Biddesden, in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Sayer does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities, but was remarkable for his good nature and inoffensive disposition. Mrs. Sayer, to whom he was married in 1699, was the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable person and brilliant wit ; but of such an abandoned disposition as to be a disgrace to her sex. Soon after Mr. Sayer's wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the Admiral's widow ; but there was such a vicious similarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two husbands had early occasion to be disgusted with the choice they had made. Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days, before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that she would procure a lover more agreeable to her mind. Sayer, who was distractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience ; and at the end of a twelve-month she presented him a daughter, which soon died : but he became still more fond of her after she had made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents. Mr. Sayer now took a house in Lisle-street, Leicester-fields, kept a coach, and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife ; but her unhappy disposition was the occasion of temporary separations.—At times, however, she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being
deemed

deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and after this circumstance she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful conduct. At length a scheme was concerted, which would probably have ended in the destruction of Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remainder of a cup of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the colonel. The challenge is said to have been written by Mrs. Sayer, and when the colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However, he obeyed the summons, and going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague-House, he addressed him as follows:—"Son Sayer, let us come to a right understanding of this business. 'Tis very well known that I am a swordsman, and I should be very far from getting any honour by killing you. But to come nearer to the point in hand, thou shouldst know, Jack, for all the world knows, that thy wife and mine are both what they should not be. They want to get rid of us both at once. If thou shouldst drop, they'll have me hanged for it after." There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together, to the mortification of the ladies. Soon after this affair, Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the parish,* and their amour was conducted with so little reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master. Mrs. Sayer coming to London,

* How disgraceful are the repeated instances which we are obliged to record, of the flagitious conduct of clergymen to their sacred avocations!

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was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found there was no hope of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him: but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her husband had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost him his life; she therefore insisted that her husband should not go; and the passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a footman to enquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer. This gentleman had not been long dead, before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which she pretended was won at Astrop Wells. About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended him to Mr. Richard Noble (the subject of our present consideration), as a man capable of being very serviceable to him. His father kept a very reputable coffee-house at Bath, and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. He had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer. Soon after his introduction to Mr. Sayer's family he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and if report said true, with her mother likewise. However, these abandoned women had other prospects besides mere gallantry, and considering Noble as a man of the world as well as a lover, they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate. The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds a year to his wife, exclusive of fifty pounds a year for pin-money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she

she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having counsel of his own to examine it. Not long after this, Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath, but that the husband might not take alarm at this circumstance, Noble sent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion. It does not seem probable that Sayer had any suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife, for the night before he set out, he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols and furniture worth above forty pounds. Soon after he was gone, Mrs. Sayer's maid, speaking of the danger her master might be in at sea, Mrs. Sayer said, "She should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; but she should be glad, and earnestly wished that Mr. Sayer might sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship might come out." Not long after the husband was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the Court of Chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee. Mr. Sayer remained in Holland nearly a year, during which time Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him; but having first robbed him of above two thousand pounds, in exchequer bills and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, and was shortly after delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the newspapers, of which the following is a copy:

"Whereas, Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq. late of Lisle-street, St. Anne's, went away from her dwelling-house, on or about the 23d of May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to the said Mary, and hath carried
away

away near one thousand pounds in money, besides other things of a considerable value, and is supposed to go by some other name: he desires all tradesmen and others not to give her any credit, for that he will not pay the same."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble, he was constantly supplied with money; but he was not her only associate at that time, for, during his occasional absence, she received the visits of other lovers. Noble now procured an order from the Court of Chancery to take Mr. Sayer in execution for four hundred pounds, at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him, for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than seventy pounds, though artful management and legal expenses had swelled it to the above-mentioned sum. Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained. In the mean time, Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the newspapers, she, with her mother, and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned characters. Mr. Sayer having been informed of this, wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes, if she would return to her duty; but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person. Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained a warrant of a justice of the peace, and taking with him two constables, and six assistants, went to the house of George Twyford, in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspected person; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger. Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble,
Mrs.

Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, were at dinner ; the door was no sooner open than Noble drew his sword, and stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women ; but the latter were so abandoned, that while the peace-officers were conveying them to the house of a magistrate, they did little else than lament the fate of Noble. Apprehensive that the mob would rise, from a supposition that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry the bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been committed, which produced the wished-for effect, by keeping perfect peace.—The prisoners begged to send for counsel, which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours ; but the counsel urged so many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this worthless mother and daughter applied to the Court of King's Bench to be admitted to bail, which was refused them. The coroner's inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet, in order for interment ; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder. On the evening of the 12th of March, 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, in Surrey, and having been arraigned on the several indictments, to which they pleaded not guilty, they were told to prepare for their trials by six o'clock on the following morning. Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent : but the court not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the *nisi prius* bar was dispatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left sufficient to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes, by which time they hoped some circumstances would happen
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in their favour. It being ordered that the trials should commence, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five. Here it should be observed, that all persons indicted for felony, have a right to challenge *twenty* jurors, and those indicted for petit-treason *thirty-five*; which may be done without alleging any cause. Happily, however, the sheriff had summoned so great a number of jurors, that the ends of public justice were not, for the present, defeated. Noble's counsel urged that some of the persons who broke into the house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manslaughter only. As the court had sat from six o'clock in the morning, till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the bar; and after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was "Guilty," and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were "Not Guilty." When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he addressed the court in the following words;

"My Lord,

"I am soon to appear and render an account of my sins to God Almighty. If your lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused, and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your lordship will think that I stand in need of such a reparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul. If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordship, and too near my end to dissemble it before God. I know, my lord, the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am about to say,
before

before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your lordship, which is only in heaven: I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by the thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity: nothing was more distant from my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them. My counsel obliged me to say on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door; I told them as I now tell your lordship, that I did not know it was him, till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it. When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabbed me: and his failure in the attempt has not a little excited my surprize. When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon, that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the foredoor, and then bolted and padlocked the backdoor, which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present: and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, that what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord, or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased, till after the misfor-

tune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the counsel against me, and that I was not entitled to any assistance of counsel, to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me; which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your lordship and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention. If I had been able under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury, that I was preparing myself, or putting myself in order to do mischief, which are acts of fore-thought and consideration; which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer,; for even from his entry into the house, to the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way. I wish it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember your lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your lordship, that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think and contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favourably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before begun, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.—Must it be thought, my lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparation to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation

conciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the counsel against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in court; with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particularly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day before this accident, I manifested my desire of having them live together again, and therefore, my lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not to revenge myself on Mr. Sayer. Your lordship, I hope, will observe thus much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact, in the opinion of the jury, that they sat up all night, and believing there was no malice at that time, told your lordship they intended and were inclined, to find it manslaughter, and doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special. I hope this will touch your lordship's heart so far, as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of Christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death!—I confess, I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed: I beg leave to assure your lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me: and I can safely say, that my blood, in a great measure, will lie at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subornation of perjury. I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hands, and who will suffer, if they are not put into some order; and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes, I hope will be agreeable to your lordship's humanity and Christian virtue, whereupon your lordship's name shall be blest with my last breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience and God Almighty."

The last request that Noble made was granted: he was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and temporal concerns, and at length suffered at Kingston, on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance. As to the women, they were no sooner acquitted, than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

WILLIAM LOWTHER and RICHARD KEELE,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF WILLIAM PERRY, A TURNKEY OF
CLERKENWELL BRIDEWELL.

WILLIAM LOWTHER was a native of Cumberland, and being bound to the master of a Newcastle ship, which traded to London, became acquainted with some of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampshire, and served his time to a barber at Winchester; and on coming to London, he married and settled in his own business in Rotherhithe: but not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, cohabited with another woman, and associated with a number of disorderly people, till the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for assisting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The case was as follows: the prisoners, together with two other desperate offenders, of the names of Houghton and Cullum, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell-bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it necessary to put them in irons, to prevent their escape. This they all refused to submit to; and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were deposited,

deposited, which they seized, and then attacked the keeper and his assistants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's nose. At this time Perry, one of the turnkeys, was without the gate, and desired the prisoners to be peaceable; but advancing towards them, he was stabbed by Houghton; and during the fray, Houghton was shot dead.

The prisoners being at length victorious, many of them made their escape; but the neighbours giving their assistance, Keele and Lowther, and several others, were taken and convicted on the clearest evidence. Before the passing sentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime, but he was informed by the court, that he must be deemed equally guilty with the rest of his companions, as he had opposed the keepers in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction, a smith went to the prison to take measure of them for chains, in which they were to be hung, pursuant to an order from the secretary of state's office; but they for some time resisted him in this duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell-green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occasion: after which, their bodies were put in a cart, drawn by four horses, decorated with plumes of black feathers, and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While these unhappy men lay under sentence of death, they appeared to have a due sense of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made serious preparation for the important change they were to undergo; but, at the place of execution, Keele asked the under sheriff if they were to be hung in chains? when the answer given was, "Don't concern yourself about your body, but take care of your poor soul."

HENRY PLUNKET,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, SEPTEMBER 22, 1714.

IN the case of this gentleman, we have a shocking instance of the danger into which our passions lead us. A more unprovoked murder we cannot record. Mr. Plunket was a foreigner, born at Saar-Lewis, in the duchy of the Lorrain, and was the son of an Irish gentleman, who held the rank of colonel in the French service, and was related to father Plunket, a priest, who was called the primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was only ten years of age, and served under his father in Flanders, Germany, and Italy. He was remarkably distinguished for his courage, having never exhibited the least sign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been awhile at Ostend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Thomas Brown, in cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of August, 1714.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the prisoner lodged in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the same house with the deceased, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket bespoke a wig of him, which Brown finished, and asked seven pounds for it,* but at length lowered his demand to six: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was so enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his escape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As soon as the horrid deed was perpetrated, Brown came down stairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat, on which a surgeon was sent for, who dress-

* It must be remembered, that at the commencement of the last century, when this foul deed was committed, young gentlemen wore enormous wigs. A hundred years reconciled them to their own hair, and the ladies alone now appear in wigs.

ed his wounds, and gave him some cordials; by which he was so far recovered as to be able to describe the prisoner, who, he said, stood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a sword and a pair of gloves belonging to the prisoner were found on a bed in the room where Brown was murdered: and Plunket having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He professed to die a Roman Catholic; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was brought to confess the justice of the sentence in consequence of which he suffered.

THOMAS DOUGLASS,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, OCTOBER 27, 1714.

THIS conviction presents another instance of the mischief ensuing from drunkenness, which the law, so far from admitting it as a palliation, as this unhappy man conceived, considers it an aggravation of the crime.

Thomas Douglass was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a seaman, at a public-house in Wapping.

He was born in the county of Berwick, in Scotland, and having been educated by his parents according to the strictly religious plan prevailing in that country, he was bound apprentice to a sea-fearing person at Berwick, and when he was out of his time he entered on board a ship in the royal navy; and in this station acquired the character of an expert and valiant seaman.

Having served queen Anne during several engagements in the Mediterranean and other seas, he returned to England with Sparks, who was his shipmate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together, till they were inflamed

ed with liquor, when the prisoner took up a knife, and stabbed the other in such a manner, that he died on the spot. The atrociousness of the offence was such, that Douglass was immediately taken into custody; and being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglass sensible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed; for he supposed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be considered in the same light as a man who is a lunatic. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of October, 1714, and died a penitent.

NATHANIEL PARKHURST, ESQ.

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 20, 1715.

It is somewhat singular, that in our search of the ancient records of crimes and punishments, we should find, in chronological order, two murders, stimulated by the fumes of intoxication. Of this disgraceful practice, of itself a sin, we could give a long lecture.—but let these dreadful consequences operate as a caution to drunkards:

Mr. Parkhurst was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715; and a second time indicted on the statute of stabbing; when the substance of the evidence given against him, was as follows:

He was a native of the village of Catesby, near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, and was the son of very respectable parents, who having given him the education common in a country academy, sent him to finish his studies at Wadham college, in Oxford; but associating himself with men of atheistical turn of mind, they employed themselves in ridiculing religion, and making a jest of the scriptures, and every thing that was held sacred.

Lewis Pleura, who was born in Italy, had taken upon himself

himself the title of count, and subsisted by the practice of gaming, till being greatly reduced in circumstances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet prison, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurst.

Parkhurst and the deceased, Lewis Pleura, having been fellow-prisoners in the Fleet for debt, the former, who had sat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining that of Mr. Pleura, and said, "D—n you, Sir Lewis, where are you?" but finding that he had mistaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and said, "D—n you, Sir Lewis, pay me four guineas you owe me." Soon after this the cry of murder was heard; when a number of people repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurst over him with his sword, who had stabbed him in near twenty places.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, who dressed the deceased, and put him to bed, and as soon as he recovered the use of his speech, he declared that Parkhurst had assassinated him. Parkhurst being taken out of the room, went back again to it and said, "D—n you, Pleura, are you not dead yet?"

In answer to this evidence against him, he said, that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and for two years and a half past, had been in a very unhappy state of mind; and several witnesses were called to prove that he had done many things which seemed to intimate that he was a lunatic; but, on the contrary, other evidence deposed, that not long before the murder happened, he had taken such steps towards obtaining his liberty, as proved, that he was in the full use of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty.

Soon after this offender had received sentence of death, he began to see the error of those opinions he had imbibed, and acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confessed that the dissolute course of life which he had led had wasted his substance, weakened his intellectual faculties, and disturbed his mind to such a degree, that before he committed the murder for which he suffered,

he had resolved to kill some person or other, and make his escape from the Fleet prison; or if he should be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of suicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfast, of which he seemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

How men can indulge even the idea of feasting, a moment as it were, before they know a disgraceful death must happen, is truly astonishing! Lord Lovat, as we shall hereafter shew, ordered his favourite dish to be cooked, and thereof eat greedily, just before his head was severed from his body.

At the place of execution he addressed himself to the populace, intimating, that since he had been ill of the small-pox, about twenty years before, his head had been affected to such a degree, that he was never able to speak long at a time: wherefore he said no more, only earnestly requested their prayers for his departing soul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the thirty-ninth year of his age.

HENRY POWEL,

HIGHWAYMAN, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 23d OF DECEMBER, 1715.

At the age of nine years he was placed at Merchant Taylors' School, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profession of a surgeon, he was bound at Surgeon's Hall, to a gentleman equally eminent for his skill and piety; but giving early proofs of the wildness of his disposition, his master predicted that some fatal consequence would ensue.

Powel's father and mother dying soon after he was bound, and his master, when he had served six years of his time, he was wholly at his own disposal: a circumstance that led to his ruin. He was at this time only
eighteen

eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriously wicked. Going now to see a young woman who was related to him, she fancied a ring which he had on his finger, and wished he would exchange it for her's, which he did; but it appearing to be of less value than she had imagined, she was base enough, on the following morning, to have him seized in his bed, as a person proper to serve the king; and without being permitted to send for any friend, he was sent into Flanders as a foot-soldier.

He twice deserted from the regiment in which he served; but the intercession of some of his officers saved him from the customary punishment. When he had been a soldier about three years, the regiment was quartered at Nieuport, between Dunkirk and Ostend, whence he again deserted, in company with seven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ship bound to England, and being landed at Burlington, in Yorkshire, Powel came up to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to assist him; so that he repented having deserted from the army, being reduced to such a situation that he saw no prospect before him but either to beg or steal. The first he despised as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally destructive to his soul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water-side, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in stealing some goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of strict virtue, who, finding some irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courses, as they must infallibly end in his destruction.

On the 15th of October, 1715, he went as far as South Mims, in Hertfordshire, where he stopped Sarah Madocks on the highway, and robbed her of two shillings and sixpence; for which offence he was apprehended, and being tried at the Old Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of December, 1715.

Just before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following passages: "I account this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty and my neighbour; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope, with true repentance, and a stedfast faith in Christ Jesus, he will seal my pardon in heaven, before I go hence, and be no more seen; and I bless God, I have had more consolation under my condemnation, than ever I had these many years; and I hope that those who survive me will take warning by my fatal end.

"I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing him to the commission of such facts; especially one person, who has accused me of it since my condemnation; but for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me; being resolved within myself, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses."

ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS

OF

THE FIRST REBELLION IN SCOTLAND, 1715;

With full Accounts of the principal Traitors who were executed.

WE are now arrived at a very memorable period of the history of England. Neither the abdication of the throne by King James II. nor his defeat by King William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, were admitted by the adherents of the family of Stuart, to bar their right to the crown. On the accession of George I. this question was in secret agitated with much warmth; when the earl of Mar, a Scotch nobleman of great popularity, and secretly a friend to the royal stock of his own country, determined upon the attempt to dethrone the king, and to overthrow the constitution. This nobleman was farther stimulated to attempt this dangerous measure, from being on the ac-
cession

cession of the king, deprived of some offices which he held under the tory ministry of Queen Anne; although, had he been permitted to retain them after the change of measures which then took place, this rebellion might not have broken out. When the earl found he was deprived of all share in the new government, he, in revenge, retired to Scotland, where he immediately began to tamper with such lords as possessed influence among the people, and found they wanted only a leader to set up the standard of the grandson of King James, who, by the Scotch, was hailed as the heir to the English throne, but by the government denominated the Pretender.

An invitation was now sent to the Pretender, who had taken refuge in France, to come to Scotland, while the friends to his cause were seducing and inlisting men for his service. This was done with all possible secrecy, yet their proceedings were soon known by the ministry, as on the 20th of July, 1715, when the king had not then reigned a year, he went to the House of Lords, where, having sent for the Commons, he told them from the throne, that a plan was on foot to invade the country by the Pretender; and that he suspected there were too many abettors of rebellion in this country.

He required, that until the rebellion should be quelled, the act of habeas corpus should be suspended, and preparations should, to that end, be immediately made.

Orders were issued for the embodying of the militia, the guards were encamped in Hyde Park, and several men of war ordered to guard the coasts, and intercept the army of the Pretender on his voyage from France to Scotland. Many persons were apprehended on suspicion of secretly aiding the rebels, and committed to prison.

Meanwhile the earl of Mar was in open rebellion at the head of an army of 3000 men, which was rapidly increasing, marching from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender as King of England and Scotland, by the title of James III. An attempt was made by stratagem to surprise the castle of Edinburgh. To this end some of the king's soldiers were base enough to receive a bribe to admit those of the earl of Mar, who were,
by

by means of ladders of rope, to scale the walls, and surprise the guard ; but the lord justice Clerk having some suspicion of the treachery, seized the guilty, some of whom were executed.

The rebels were greatly chagrined at the failure of their attempt upon Edinburgh castle ; and the French king, Louis XIV. from whom they hoped for assistance, dying about this time, the leaders became disheartened, and contemplated the abandonment of their project, until their king could appear in person among them.

Discontent, however, showed itself in another quarter. In Northumberland the spirit of rebellion was fermented by Thomas Forster, then one of the members of parliament for that county ; and, being joined by several noblemen and gentlemen, they attempted to seize the large and commercial town of Newcastle, but were driven back by the friends of the government. Forster set up the standard of the Pretender, and proclaimed him the lawful King of Britain wherever he went. He next joined a body of Scotch troops in rebellion, and marched with them as far as Preston in Lancashire, before his career could be stopped by the king's army.

At this town generals Carpenter and Wills attacked the rebels, who defended themselves a while, by firing upon the royal army from windows, and from the tops of houses, but the latter proved victorious, though not without the loss of 150 men. They made prisoners about 1500, among whom were

The Earl of Derwentwater,	}	English Peers.
The Lord Widdrington,		
The Earl of Nithisdale,	}	Scotch Peers.
The Earl of Winton,		
The Earl of Carnworth,		
Viscount Kenmure,		
The Lord Nairn,		

These noblemen, with about 300 more rebels, were conveyed to London ; the remainder, taken at the battle of Preston, were sent to Liverpool, and its adjacent towns. At Highgate the party intended for trial in
London,

London, were met by a strong detachment of foot-guards, who tied them back to back, and placed two on each horse, and in this ignominious manner were they held to the derision of the populace, until the lords were conveyed to the Tower, and the others to Newgate and other prisons.

On the day after the victory of the English, the earl of Mar, with his followers, attempted to cross the Forth, with a view of joining the rebels, collected together in England; but a squadron of the British fleet having anchored off Edinburgh, they abandoned that design.

Sir John M'Kenzie, on the part of the Pretender, fortified the town of Inverness; but lord Lovat* armed his tenants, and drove him from his fortifications. This was a service of much import to the royal cause, as the possession of Inverness opened a communication between the high and the low lands of Scotland. The earl of Scathforth and the marquis of Huntley, appeared in favour of the Pretender; but on the earl of Sunderland threatening to fall upon them at the head of his tenants, they laid down their arms. Thus we find that the interest of Scotland was divided in the question of the right to the British throne. In England there was a vast majority in favour of the house of Hanover.

The Pretender, evading the British ships sent to watch his motions, landed from a small French vessel, with only six followers. This happened on the 23d of December, while the royal army, under the duke of Argyle, were in winter quarters at Stirling, and that of the rebels, at Perth. On the 9th of January, 1716, having collected a few hundred half-armed Highlanders, the Pretender made a public entry into the palace of Scone, the place of coronation of the kings of Scotland, while that country was a separate monarchy; assumed the functions of a king, and issued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for the convocation of the states.

These daring proceedings determined the duke of Ar-

* This Scotch nobleman, at this time active in the cause of King George, by a strange infatuation, during a subsequent rebellion, on the very same cause, took the other side, and fought for the Pretender, was taken, condemned, and beheaded on Tower-hill! A particular account of that rebellion we shall also give, with the trials and execution of the rebels.

gyle, who had been joined by general Cadogan, at the head of 6000 Dutch troops, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, to march in pursuit of the rebels. He proceeded to their head-quarters at Perth, but they fled on his approach. It appeared that the Pretender was encouraged by France to rebel, hoping thereby to throw the nation into confusion, of which that deceitful government would have taken the advantage. To meet the expected succours, the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montrose, where, soon rendered hopeless by no news arriving of the approach of the foreigners, they began to disperse. The king's troops pursued and put several to death; but the Pretender, accompanied by the earl of Mar, and some of the leaders of the rebellion, had the good fortune to get on board a ship lying before Montrose, and, in a dark night, put to sea, escaped the English fleet, and landed in France.

It is now time to return to the captive lords, and the other prisoners, taken at the battle of Preston. The House of Commons unanimously agreed to impeach the lords, and expel Forster from his seat as one of their members; while the courts of common law proceeded with the trials of those of less note. The articles of impeachment, being sent by the Commons, the Lords sat in judgment, earl Cooper, the Lord High Chancellor of England, being constituted Lord High Steward.

The unfortunate noblemen, except the earl of Winton, pleaded guilty to the indictment, but offered pleas of extenuation for their guilt, in hopes of obtaining mercy. In that of the earl of Derwentwater, he suggested that the proceedings in the House of Commons, in impeaching him, was illegal.

Proclamation was immediately made for silence, and the Lord High Steward proceeded to pass the sentence of the law on those who had pleaded guilty, in the following words:

“James earl of Derwentwater, William lord Widdrington, William earl of Nithisdale, Robert earl of Carnworth, William viscount Kenmure, William lord Nairn:

“You stand impeached by the Commons of Great Britain, in parliament assembled, of high treason, in traitorously

torously imagining and compassing the death of his most sacred majesty, and in conspiring for that end to levy a bloody and destructive war against his majesty, in order to depose and murder him ; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a pretender to his crown to be king of these realms.

“ Which impeachment, though one of your lordships, in the introduction to this plea, supposes to be out of the ordinary and common course of the law and justice, is yet as much a course of proceeding according to the common law, as any other whatsoever.

“ If you had been indicted, the indictment must have been removed, and brought before the House of Lords, (the parliament sitting.) In that case you had ('tis true) been accused only by the grand-jury of one county ; in the present, the whole body of the commons of Great Britain, by their representatives, are your accusers.

“ And this circumstance is very observable, (to exclude all possible supposition of hardship, as to the method of proceeding against you) that, however all great assemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons, not one contradicting.

“ They found themselves, it seems, so much concerned in the preservation of his most truly sacred majesty, and the Protestant succession (the very life and soul of these kingdoms) that they could not omit the first opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to so signal and necessary an act of his majesty's justice.

“ And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom has in a manner rose up in its own defence, for the punishment of those crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlasting dissolution of it.

“ To this impeachment you have severally pleaded and acknowledged yourselves guilty of the high treason therein contained.

“ Your pleas are accompanied with some variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

“ Part of which, as some of the circumstances said to have attended your surrender, (seeming to be offered ra-

ther as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt) is not proper for me to take notice of.

“ But as to the other part, which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I should take this occasion to make some observations to your lordships upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given against you, may clearly appear to be just and righteous, as well as legal ; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in respect of a greater judicature, by reflecting with less horror and remorse on the guilt you have contracted, than it really deserves.

“ It is alleged, by some of your lordships, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without suitable preparations of men, horses, and arms.

“ If this should be supposed true, on some of your lordships averring it, I desire you to consider, that it exempts you from the circumstance of contriving this treason, so it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

“ For it shews, that your inclinations to rebel were so well known, (which could only be from a continued series of your words and actions) that the contrivers of that horrid design depended upon you, and therein judged rightly that your zeal to engage in this treason was so strong, as to carry you into it on the least warning, and the very first invitation : that you would not excuse yourselves by want of preparation, as you might have done ; and that rather than not have a share in the rebellion, you would plunge yourselves into it, almost naked and unprovided for such an enterprise ; in short, that your men, horses, and arms, were not so well prepared as they might, and would have been, on longer warning ; but your minds were.

“ It is alleged also, as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harsh action (I suppose is meant no rapine or plunder, or worse) has been committed by you.

“ This may, in part only, be true : but then your lordships will at the same time consider, that the laying waste a tract of land bears but a little proportion, in point of
guilt,

guilt, compared with that crime of which you stand convicted ; an open attempt to destroy the best of kings, to ruin the whole fabric, and raze the very foundations of a government, the best suited of any in the world, to perfect the happiness, and support the dignity of human nature. The former offence causes but a mischief that is soon recovered, and is usually pretty much confined ; the latter, had it succeeded, must have brought a lasting and universal destruction on the whole kingdom.

“ Besides, much of this was owing to accident ; your march was so hasty, partly to avoid the king’s troops, and partly from a vain hope to stir up insurrections in all the counties you passed through, that you had not time to spread devastation, without deviating from your main, and, as I have observed, much worse design.

“ Farther : ’Tis very surprising that any concerned in this rebellion, should lay their engaging in it on the government’s doing a necessary and usual act in like cases, for its preservation ; the giving orders to confine such as were most likely to join in that treason : ’tis hard to believe that any one should rebel, merely to avoid being restrained from rebelling ; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have suited a crazy state of health, than the fatigues and inconveniences of such long and hasty marches in the depth of winter.

“ Your lordships rising in arms therefore, has much more justified the prudence and fitness of those orders, than those orders will in anywise serve to mitigate your treason. Alas ! happy had it been for all your lordships, had you fallen under so indulgent a restraint !

“ When your lordships shall, in good earnest, apply yourselves to think impartially on your case, surely you will not yourselves believe that it is possible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue so long engaged, in such a difficult and laborious enterprise, through rashness, surprise, or inadvertency ; or that had the attack at Preston been less sudden (and consequently the rebels better prepared to receive it,) your lordships had been reduced the sooner, and with less, if not without any bloodshed.

“ No, my lords, these, and such like, are artful colourings, proceeding from minds filled with expectation of

continuing in this world, and not from such as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true springs and causes of action must be laid open.

“ And now, my lords, having thus removed some false colours you have used; to assist you yet farther in that necessary work of thinking on your great offence as you ought, I proceed to touch upon several circumstances that seem greatly to aggravate your crime, and which will deserve your most serious consideration.

“ The divine virtues (’tis one of your lordships’ own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordships, acknowledge to be in his majesty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have withheld your hands from endeavouring to depose, to destroy, to murder, that most excellent prince; so the impeachment speaks, and so the law construes your actions: and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almost always so in deed and reason. ’Tis a trite, but a very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown and their graves. Had you succeeded, his majesty’s case would, I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule, since ’tis highly improbable that flight should have saved any of that illustrious and valiant family.

“ ’Tis a further aggravation of your crime, that his majesty, whom your lordships would have dethroned, affected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition, but succeeded peaceably and legally to it; and on the decease of her late majesty without issue, became undoubtedly the next in course of descent capable of succeeding to the crown, by the law and constitution of this kingdom, as it stood declared some years before the crown was expressly limited to the house of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the descent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legislature in two successive reigns, and more than once in the latter; which your lordships’ accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that side.

“ How could it then enter into the heart of man, to think that private persons might with a good conscience endeavour

vour to subvert such a settlement, by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people with contradictory opinions and groundless slanders; or that God's providence would ever prosper such wicked, such ruinous attempts; especially if, in the next place, it be considered, that the most fertile inventions, on the side of the rebellion, have not been able to assign the least shadow of a grievance as the cause of it: to such poor shifts have they been reduced on this head, that, for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a solemn manner, by your lordship's associates, to his majesty's government, that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace, as our neighbours have done since the last war: thus they first rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. It is a monstrous rebellion, that can find no fault with the government it invades, but what is the effect of the rebellion itself!

“Your lordships will likewise do well to consider what an additional burden your treason has made it necessary to impose on the people of this kingdom, who wanted, and were about to enjoy some respite: to this end, 'tis well known, that all new or increase of taxes, were the last year carefully avoided, and his majesty was contented to have no more forces than were just sufficient to attend his person, and shut the gates of a few garrisons.

“But what his majesty thus did for the ease and quiet of his people, you most ungratefully turned to his disadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence, to endanger his and his kingdom's safety, and to bring oppression on your fellow-subjects.

“Your lordships observe, I avoid expatiating on the miseries of a civil war, a very large and copious subject; I shall but barely suggest to you on that head, that whatever those calamities may happen to be, in the present case, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion (especially persons of figure and distinction), are in some degree responsible for them: and therefore your lordships must not hold yourselves quite clear from the guilt of those barbarities which have been lately committed, by such as are engaged in the same treason
with

with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby exposing many thousands to cold and hunger, in this rigorous season.

“ I must be so just, to such of your lordships as profess the religion of the church of Rome, that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treason, which the others had not; in that, it was evident, success on your part must for ever have established Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again so fair an opportunity.

“ But then, good God! how must those Protestants be covered with confusion, who entered into the same measures, without so much as capitulating for their religion (that ever I could find, from any examination I have seen or heard), or so much as requiring, much less obtaining a frail promise, that it should be preserved, or even tolerated.

“ It is my duty to exhort your lordships thus to think of the aggravations, as well as the mitigations (if there be any) of your offences: and I could have the least hopes, that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too strong for the most earnest and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on those directors of your consciences, by whose conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miserable condition; but that your lordships would be assisted by some of those pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have constantly borne that infallible mark of sincere Christians, universal charity.

“ And now, my lords, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you (and sorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind.

“ The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted, by the grace of the crown, to persons of your quality; but the law, in this case, being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court—

“ That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William
Lord

Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithisdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viscount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the prison of the Tower, from whence you came ; from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution ; when you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead ; for you must be cut down alive ; then your bowels must be taken out, and burnt before your faces ; then your heads must be severed from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters ; and these must be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls."

After sentence thus passed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February orders were sent to the lieutenant of the Tower and sheriffs for their execution ; and great solicitations were made in favour of them, which not only reached the court, but came down to the two houses of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by some, occasioned debates ; that in the House of Commons arose no higher than to occasion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interposition there ; but the matter in the House of Peers was carried on with more success, where their petitions were delivered and spoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices, that the same should be received and read. And the question was put, whether the King had power to reprieve, in case of impeachment ? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to address his majesty to desire him to grant reprieve to the lords under sentence ; but the movers thereof only obtained this clause, viz. " To reprieve
" such of the condemned lords as deserved his mercy ;
" and that the time of the respite should be left to his
" majesty's discretion."

To which address his majesty replied,

" That on this, and other occasions, he would do what
" he thought most consistent with the dignity of his
" crown, and the safety of his people."

The great parties they had made, as was said, by the means of money, and also the rash expressions too common

mon in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the hastening their execution; for on the same day the address was presented, the 23d of February, it was resolved in council, that the earl of Derwentwater and the lord Kenmure, should be beheaded; and the earl of Nithisdale, apprehending he should be included in the warrant, made his escape the evening before, in a woman's riding-hood, supposed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a visit.

In the morning of the 24th of February, three detachments of the life-guards went from Whitehall to Tower-hill, and having taken their stations round the scaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and being received by the sheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the transport office on Tower-hill; and at the expiration of about an hour, the earl of Derwentwater sent word that he was ready; on which Sir John Fryer, one of the sheriffs, walked before him to the scaffold, and when there, told him he might have what time he pleased to prepare himself for death.

His lordship desired to read a paper which he had written, the substance of which was, that he was sorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection, and that these kingdoms would never be happy till the ancient constitution was restored; and he wished his death might contribute to that desirable end. His lordship professed to die a Roman Catholic, and in the postscript to his speech, said, "If that prince, who now governs, had given me life, I should have thought myself obliged never more to have taken up arms against him."

Sir John Fryer, desiring to have the paper, he said he had sent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read some prayers out of two small books, and kneeled to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourse to his devotions, and having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewise forgave all his enemies, he directed him to strike when

when he should repeat the words "Sweet Jesus," the third time.

He then kneeled down, and said, "Sweet Jesus! receive my spirit! Sweet Jesus, be merciful to me! Sweet Jesus!"—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was struck off at one blow; and the executioner taking it up, exhibited it at the four corners of the scaffold, saying, "Behold the head of a traitor:—God save King George."

The body was now wrapped up in black baize, and being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceased; and the scaffold having been cleared, fresh baize put on the block, and saw-dust strewed, that none of the blood might appear, Lord Kenmure was conducted to the scaffold.

His Lordship, who was a Protestant, was attended by two clergymen; but he declined saying much, telling one of them that he had prudential reasons for not delivering his sentiments; which were supposed to arise from his regard to Lord Carnwarth, who was his brother-in-law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy; as his talking in the way that Lord Derwentwater had done might be supposed to injure his Lordship with those most likely to serve him.

Lord Kenmure having finished his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a present of eight guineas. He was attended by a surgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be struck; and being executed as Lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George Earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other Lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was, that he had surrendered at Preston in consequence of a promise from General Wills to grant him his life: in answer to which it was sworn, that no promise of mercy was made, but that the rebels surrendered at discretion.

The Earl of Winton having left his house, with fourteen or fifteen of his servants well mounted and armed;—his

joining the Earl Carnwarth and Lord Kenmure ; his proceeding with the rebels through the various stages of their march, and his surrendering with the rest, were circumstances fully proved : notwithstanding which his counsel moved an arrest of judgment : but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought insufficient, his Peers unanimously found him guilty : and then the Lord High Steward pronounced sentence on him, after having addressed him in the following forcible terms :—

“ George Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you, that your Peers have found you guilty ; that is, in the terms of the law, convicted you of the high treason whereof you stand impeached ; after your Lordship has moved an arrest of judgment, and their lordships have disallowed that motion, that their next step is to proceed to judgment.

“ The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronouncing that judgment upon you, since it is His Majesty’s pleasure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully submit to it ; far, very far, from taking any satisfaction in it.

“ ’Till conviction, your Lordship has been spoken to without the least prejudice, or supposition of your guilt ; but now it must be taken for granted, that your Lordship is guilty of the high treason whereof you stand impeached.

“ My Lord, this your crime is the greatest known to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country whatsoever, and it is of the blackest and most odious species of that crime ; a conspiracy and attempt, manifested by an open rebellion, to depose and murder that sacred person, who sustains, and is the Majesty of the whole ; and from whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory, are dispersed all the honours, all the dignity of the State ; indeed the lasting and operative life and vigour of the laws, which plainly subsist by a due administration of the executive power.

“ So that attempting this precious life, is really striking at the most noble part, the seat of life, and spring of all motion in this government ; and may, therefore, properly be called a design to murder not only the king, but also the body politic of this kingdom.

(3) — “ And

“ And this is most evidently true in your Lordship’s case, considering that success in your treason must infallibly have established popery, and that never fails to bring with it a civil as well as ecclesiastical tyranny; which is quite another sort of constitution than that of this kingdom, and cannot take place till the present is annihilated.

“ This your crime (so I must call it) is the more aggravated, in that where it proceeds so far as to take arms openly, and to make an offensive war against lawful authority; it is generally (as in your case) complicated with the horrid and crying sin of murdering many, who are not only innocent but meritorious; and, if pity be due (as I admit it is in some degree) to such as suffer for their own crimes, it must be admitted a much greater share of compassion is owing to them who have lost their lives merely by the crimes of other men.

“ As many have so done in the late rebellion, so many murders have they to answer for who promoted it; and your Lordship, in examining your conscience, will be under a great delusion, if you look at those that fell at Preston, Dumblain, or elsewhere, on the side of the laws, and defence of settled order and government, as slain in open lawful warfare, even judging of this matter by the law of nations.

“ Alas! my Lord, your crime of high treason is yet made redder by shedding a great deal of the best blood in the kingdom; I include in this expression the brave common soldiers, as well as those gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful to death, in defence of the laws: for sure but little blood can be better than that, which is shed while it is warm, in the cause of the true religion, and the liberties of its native country.”

After continuing for some length, much in the same strain as the foregoing address, his Lordship pronounced the usual sentence.

Soon after the passing this sentence, the Earls of Winton and Nithisdale found means to escape out of the Tower; and Messrs. Forster and M’Intosh escaped from Newgate: but it was supposed that motives of mercy and

tenderness in the Prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second, favoured the escape of all these gentlemen.

This rebellion occasioned the untimely death of many other persons. Five were executed at Manchester, six at Wigan, and eleven at Preston ; but a considerable number were brought to London ; and, being arraigned in the Court of Exchequer, most of them pleaded guilty, and suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

It will now be proper that we mention the cases of such other remarkable persons who suffered on account of the rebellion ; and then we will make some general remarks on the nature and heinousness of that offence.

COLONEL HENRY OXBURGH,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 14, 1716, FOR HIGH TREASON.

HENRY OXBURGH, Esq. the son of a man of considerable property in Lancashire, having been educated in the most rigid principles of the Roman Catholic religion, was sent abroad while a youth into the service of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

At the close of the war he returned to England to see his friends ; and, finding that the rebels were advancing southwards, he raised a regiment, with which he joined the main army before it reached Preston. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops, and if his opinion had been taken, the town would not have surrendered as soon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty ; but after sentence was passed on him, and he found that every application for mercy was unsuccessful, he talked in a strain very different from that of a man conscious of any crime. He said he considered the Pretender as his lawful sovereign, and never deemed himself the subject of any other prince.— He even asserted that he would have been equally loyal to the Pretender if he had been a Protestant.

This unhappy man seems to have fallen a victim to the prejudices of education.

RICHARD

RICHARD GASCOIGNE,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 25, 1716, FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS unfortunate man was singularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cause, that he mortgaged his whole estate to supply himself with money to purchase arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the south of England, he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the Pretender king at every stage of his march. He was made prisoner by the king's troops at Preston, at the same time as Colonel Oxburgh; and being arraigned before Lord Chief Justice King, in Westminster Hall, he pleaded "Not Guilty."

On his trial it was proved, that some casks of arms which he had purchased abroad, were found on board a ship, directed to him; and, being found guilty on the clearest evidence, sentence of death was passed on him.

While he lay under sentence, his sentiments appeared to be nearly the same as those of Colonel Oxburgh: and at the place of execution he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to restore the Roman Catholic religion, but solely in behalf of James the Third, whom he deemed his lawful sovereign.

REV. WILLIAM PAUL,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JULY 18, 1716, FOR HIGH TREASON.

MR. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire; and having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the Bishop of Oxford presented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was instituted in the year 1709.

The

The rebels having reached Preston, Mr. Paul began a journey to meet them; but was apprehended on suspicion, and carried before Colonel Noel, a justice of the peace, who, finding no just cause of detention, dismissed him; on which he continued his journey to Preston, where he read prayers to the rebels three days successively, and prayed for the Pretender, by the name of King James, in the parish church.

A short time before the national forces reached Preston, Mr. Paul quitted that place; and, coming to London, disguised himself by wearing coloured clothes, a sword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this disguise before he was met by Mr. Bird, a justice of the peace for Leicestershire, who caused him to be taken into custody, and carried to the house of the Duke of Devonshire, who sent him to the secretary of state for examination; but, as he refused to make any confession, he was delivered to the custody of one of the king's messengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Westminster on the 31st of May, and pleaded "Not Guilty:" on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to prison, he sent for a friend; to whom he said, "What must I do? I have been this day arraigned, and pleaded Not Guilty, but that will not avail, for too much will be proved against me."—To this his friend replied, "I will persuade you to nothing; but, in my opinion, the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself on the king's mercy." Mr. Paul said his counsel advised the same, and he was resolved to do so; and when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty; in consequence of which sentence of death was passed on him.

Being sent back to prison he made every possible interest for the preservation of his life; for he seemed to have a most singular dread of death, particularly when attended with such disgraceful circumstances as he had reason to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the King,
another

another to the Lord Chief Justice, and letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen ; in all of which he acknowledged his crime, and his change of sentiments ; and interceded for mercy, in terms of the most abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation, he says, “ I am among the number of those who are to suffer next Friday.— I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a common executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other condition of life, will be infinitely preferable to so barbarous and insupportable a way of ending it ; and means must be found for preventing, or I shall anticipate the ignominy of the halter, by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr. C——r to understand, that he may promise any thing that he shall think fit in my name ; and that his royal highness the Prince, and his council, shall have no cause to repent of their mercy to me.”

All Mr. Paul’s petitions, however, proved fruitless ; he was ordered for execution, and was attended by a non-juring clergyman, who endeavoured to inspire him with an idea of the justice of the cause for which he was to yield his life ; he was, however, dreadfully affected till within a few days of his death ; when he began to assume a greater degree of courage.

JOHN HALL, ESQ.

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JULY 18, 1716, FOR HIGH TREASON.

JOHN HALL, Esq. was a justice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and having been taken prisoner with the other rebels at Preston, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted, the rebels.

Two evidences deposed that he was seen at different places with the rebels : but in his defence he said, that
having

having been to a meeting of the justices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's house, and that on the following day, while he was stooping on his horse's neck, to screen himself from the tempestuous weather, himself and his servant were surrounded by the rebels, who forced them away; and that he was unarmed, and had only seven shillings and sixpence in his possession.

Though this circumstance was sworn to by Mr. Hall's servant, yet the Court in the charge to the jury observed, that, "If a man was seen with rebels, if it appeared that he had frequent opportunities of escaping, and did not do it, but continued by his presence to abet and comfort them, it was treason within the meaning of the law."

Now as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleased, and did not seem to be restrained, the jury found him guilty; and when the Court passed sentence on him, he said, "God's will be done."

After conviction he was attended by a non-juring clergyman; and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however, he made such interest that he obtained five short reprieves, and might possibly have been pardoned; but that having written the following speech some weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is supposed to have reached the Court; for when a nobleman made application for pardon, he was answered, "By no means, my good Lord: it were a pity Mr. Hall should lose the opportunity of leaving such a speech behind him, as he gives out will raise the spirits of the whole nation to be of the same mind with him, and will be instrumental in bringing in the person whom he calls his lawful sovereign King James the Third."

Mr. Hall was executed at the same time and place with Mr. Paul; and, a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a paper to the sheriff which is as follows:—

"Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,

"I am come here to die, for the sake of God, my king, and my country; and I heartily rejoice that I am counted worthy of so great an honour: for let not any of you think
that

that I am come to a shameful and ignominious end : the truth and justice of the cause for which I suffer, makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for asserting the right of my only lawful sovereign king James the Third ; that I offer myself a victim for the liberties and happiness of my dear country, and my beloved fellow-subjects ; that I fall a sacrifice to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short, consider that I suffer in defence of the command of God, and the laws, and hereditary constitution of the land ; and then know, and be assured, that I am not a traitor, but a martyr.

“ I declare that I die a true and sincere member of the church of England, but not of the revolution schismatical church, whose bishops have so rebelliously abandoned the king, and so shamefully given up the rights of the church, by submitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations of the prince of Orange. The communion I die in, is that of the true catholic nonjuring church of England, and I pray God to prosper and increase it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that it may rise again and flourish.

“ I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any manner, and at any time, injured and offended. I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and my king, for having so far swerved from my duty, as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing allegiance to it, and acting in public posts by the usurper’s commissions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart, I did this at first through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented and drew my sword for the king, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray God my patience and my sufferings may atone for my former crime ; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings, of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ.

“ I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church or state ; I pray God have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son’s most pre-

cious blood. I do particularly, forgive from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunswick, who murders me; my unjust pretended judges and jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Carnaby, evidences who swore against me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow-pisoners can testify the same) that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that, in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

“ Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender at Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that were the only bad consequence of it. But, alas! it is too plain that the surrenderers not only ruined many of his majesty’s brave and faithful subjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain: for it was then in their power to have restored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able, to have attacked them.

“ On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute: on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, insomuch, that after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wish them God’s and the king’s pardon for it.

“ May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful sovereign king James the Third; may he direct his councils, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

“ May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those who for a reward would slay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth
long

long to live ; may he strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies ; and, finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

“ These my beloved countrymen are the sincere prayers, these the last words of me who am now a dying person ; and if you have any regard to the last breath of one, who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only sovereign liege lord king James the Third ; be ever ready to serve him, and be sure you never fail to use all your endeavours to restore him ; and whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause, and a gracious God, and expect a recompence from him.

“ To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it, for the sake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

July 13, 1716.

“ JOHN HALL.”

Postscript.

“ I might reasonably have expected my life would have been saved, since I had obtained five reprieves : but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonourable terms. I have reason to think, that at first I could have secured my life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty ; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile scandalous manner : but I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my king, and denied my principles ; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.

July 13, 1716.

“ JOHN HALL.”

Among the sufferers in the rebellion were the following,

ing, who were apprehended in London, enlisting men for the Pretender:—Robert Whitty, Felix O'Hara, and Joseph Sullivan; and though the business in which they were engaged was of the most dangerous nature, yet they continued it for some time: but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn on the 28th of May, 1715.

Robert Whitty was born in Ireland, and having enlisted for a soldier when young, served in an English regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelsea-college as an out-pensioner.

Felix O'Hara, who was about 29 years of age, was likewise an Irishman, and having lived some time in Dublin as a waiter at a tavern, he saved some money, and entered into business for himself; but that not answering as he could have wished, he came to London.

Joseph Sullivan was a native of Munster in Ireland, and about the same age as O'Hara. He had for some time served in the Irish brigades, but obtaining his discharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the business which cost him and his companions their lives.

These men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died professing the Roman Catholic religion.

We have already fully stated the law against treason, in the case of William Gregg, the first traitor whose case came before us in the order we have placed these singular series of biography. Any comments upon the cause which stirred up this rebellion in Scotland is needless—it being well known that, like the contending parties of York and Lancaster, it was a struggle for the crown between the houses of Hanover and of the Stuarts. The latter becoming entirely extinct in the death of a Cardinal at Rome, the last remaining relative of the family, we are not likely on that score, to be again embroiled in civil wars.

JAMES GOODMAN,

EXECUTED MARCH 12, 1716, FOR HORSE-STEALING, &c.

WAS a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, and served his time to a carpenter at Aylesbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a venison pasty, and make merry ; in consequence of which they stole a deer ; but being taken into custody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were imprisoned a year in Aylesbury gaol.

After his enlargement, he married and entered into business, which he carried on with success for about nine years ; but becoming fond of idle company, he was soon so reduced in circumstances that he brought himself and family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Pursuant to this plan they stopped Philip White, between Stratford and Ilford in Essex, and robbed him of his horse, one shilling, and his spurs.

Four days after this robbery, Mr. White saw Goodman on his horse at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewise on horseback. Hereupon Mr. White sent his servant to demand his horse ; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately pursued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themselves hard pressed, they quitted their horses, and ran into the field ; on which Mr. White gave his servant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did so ; on which one of them fired twice, and said, “ D—n it, we’ll kill or be killed ; we won’t be “ taken alive ; our lives are as good as theirs.” On this Mr. White’s servant fired his gun, which was loaded with pebble-stones, and striking Goodman on the head, he was so stunned that he was easily taken ; and some other persons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger, and pursued Stephens, who submitting after a short resistance, both the prisoners were conveyed to Newgate.

Stephens

Stephens having been admitted an evidence against Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchased Mr. White's horse: but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the testimony of his witnesses.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive sentence: but the night being dark, and being assisted by some other prisoners, he got over the spikes, and, though he was loaded with irons, effected his escape.

But it was not long before he was re-taken, owing to a very singular circumstance. While in custody, he delivered some money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, considering his situation, kept the money for his own use.

Wherefore, about a month after his escape, Goodman went to an alehouse in Holborn, and sent for a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier: but some persons in the house happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into custody after a desperate resistance; and at the end of the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable situation, he acknowledged his guilt, confessed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his past life, and wished he could make reparation to those whom he had injured.

JOHN HAMILTON, ESQ.

BEHEADED IN EDINBURGH, JUNE 30, 1716, FOR MURDER.

THE philosopher Plato, says, that gaming was invented by a certain devil called Theuth, who afterwards instructed Thamus, king of Egypt, in the tricks of play.
Cards

Cards were invented to amuse a puny Dauphin of France ; but are now become a common medium of robbery in the hands of sharpers. Cyrus and Alexander admired hunting ; Cicero played with a kitten ; Socrates found recreation in galloping about on a hobby-horse with children ; Plato turned Pedlar ; Posidonius, the stoic philosopher, under the most violent paroxysms of the gout, would only smile and say, " Pain ! all thy obliging services are to no purpose ; thou may'st be a little troublesome ; but I will never own thee for an evil." Shakespeare says, " All mankind to some loved ills incline," but woe to him whose propensities lead him to drinking and gaming. Aristotle treats gamesters as thieves, pick-pockets, and robbers ; and these annals of crimes sufficiently corroborate the opinions of the philosophers of old.

Mr. Hamilton was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law ; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars, prevented their generous intention from taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentlemen at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming ; and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any farther sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions at a public house kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drank and gamed for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle stripped Hamilton's sword from the scabbard.—The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no scabbard to his sword, he instantly went back to the house,

house, when Argle calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he instantly expired.

The daughter of Argle being present, attempted to seize Hamilton; in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of Argle was almost blind; but her keeping the sword and the skirt of the coat, proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial, he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed; to which he was instigated by the extreme ill usage he had received from Arkle.—The jury not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was beheaded by the maiden, an instrument of death, from which the guillotine in France was constructed, and which, in the case of Alexander Balfour, we have already described.

JOSEPH STILL,

EXECUTED AT STAMFORD HILL, MARCH 22, 1717, FOR MURDER.

THIS man came to London in search of a livelihood, and for some time maintained himself by selling poultry in the streets; but growing weary of that employment, he enlisted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but having obtained his discharge, he became acquainted with a set of thieves, who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London, and being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped.

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into custody in Hertfordshire,

Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his singular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a considerable time, he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, escaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a mask over his face.

At length nearly all his companions were hanged, and being reduced to the greatest distress, he went once more on the road to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Having drank at an ale-house in Kingsland-road till his spirits were somewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke-Newington, and after sauntering awhile in the fields, without meeting with any person whom he durst venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's Walk, behind the church, where he saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant being determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still, and a battle ensuing, the villain drew a knife, and stabbed the footman through the body.

He immediately ran away; but some people coming by while the footman was sensible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was pursued, taken, and brought to the spot where the other was expiring; and being searched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died after declaring that Still was the murderer; and the latter was committed to Newgate; and being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not scruple to find him guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

The progression of this malefactor seems to have been very gradual, from smaller to greater crimes, till at length his life paid the forfeit for one of the most enormous. Hence let us be taught the danger of indulging the least propensity to an evil act. The commission of one crime naturally leads to that of another, till the criminal is involved in distress and misery, from which there is no hope of relief!

THE MARQUIS DE PALEOTTI,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN ON THE 17th OF MARCH, 1718, FOR THE MURDER
OF HIS SERVANT.

THIS rash man was the head of a noble family in Italy, and, like Colonel Hamilton, was brought to a disgraceful death, through the vice of gaming, with all the aggravated horrors of suffering in a strange country: thus doubly disgracing the honours of his house.

Ferdinando Marquis de Paleotti was born at Bologna in Italy, and in the reign of Queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cause of his coming to England arose from the following circumstance:—The Duke of Shrewsbury being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to, the sister of Paleotti; and the lady following the Duke to Augsburgh in Germany, they were there married, after she had first renounced the Roman Catholic religion. The Duchess residing with her husband in England, and the Marquis having quitted the Imperial army, on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to see his sister.

Being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran in debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burthensome and endless task. Though she declined to assist him as usual, he continued his former course of life till he was imprisoned for debt; but his sister privately procured his liberty, and he was discharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement, he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and being one day walking in the street, he directed his servant, an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant having met with frequent denials, declined going: on which the Marquis drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

Being instantly apprehended, he was committed to prison, tried at the next sessions, and being convicted on full evidence, he received sentence of death. The Duke
of

of Shrewsbury being dead, and his Duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were used to save the Marquis, who suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718.

Italian pride had taken deep root in the mind of this man. He declared it to be disgraceful to this country to put a nobleman to death, like a common malefactor, for killing his servant, and lamented that our churches, as in Italy, did not afford a sanctuary for murderers. Englishmen, however, are thankful that neither of this Marquis's desires prevail in their country, where the law makes no distinction in offenders. To his last moment this pride of aristocracy was predominant in his mind. He petitioned the sheriffs, that his body might not be defiled by touching the unhappy Englishmen, doomed to suffer with him, and that he might die before them, and alone. The sheriffs, in courtesy to a stranger, granted this request, and thus, in his last struggle, he maintained the superiority of his rank.—Vain man! of what avail were his titles in the presence of the Almighty?

JAMES SHEPPARD,

TRAITOR, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 17th OF MARCH, 1718.

THIS trial, a very singular case of treason, may be considered as an appendix to our history of the rebellion. Though the crime for which he was executed was committed three years after the insurrection was quelled, yet the same misjudged opinion urged this youth to enthusiasm, in the cause of the Pretender. It is still more singular, that he, neither being a Scotchman born, or in any way interested in the mischiefs which he contemplated, should, unsolicited, volunteer in so dangerous a cause. Hence, when first apprehended, many were of opinion, that he was disordered in the brain; but the firmness of his demeanour, during his imprisonment and trial, removed these doubts.

James Sheppard was the son of Thomas Sheppard,
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glover

glover in Southwark; but his father dying when he was about five years of age, he was sent to school in Hertfordshire, whence his uncle, Dr. Hinchcliffe, removed him to Mitcham, in Surrey, and afterwards to Salisbury, where he remained at school three years. Being at Salisbury at the time of the rebellion, he imbibed the principles of his school-fellows, many of whom were favourers of the Pretender; and he was confirmed in his sentiments by reading some pamphlets which were then put into his hands.

When he quitted Salisbury, Dr. Hinchcliffe put him apprentice to Mr. Scott, a coach-painter, in Devonshire-street, near Bishopsgate; and he continued in this situation about fourteen months, when he was apprehended for the fact which cost him his life.

Sheppard having conceived the idea that it would be a praiseworthy action to kill the king, wrote a letter, which he intended for a nonjuring minister of the name of Leake; but mistaking the spelling, he directed it "to the Reverend Mr. Heath." This letter, a copy of which follows, he carried to Mr. Leake's house.

"Sir,

"From the many discontents visible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the Prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be settled on his throne, without much loss of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propose that if any gentleman will pay for my passage into Italy, and if our friends will intrust one so young with letters of invitation to his Majesty, I will, on his arrival, smite the usurper in his palace. In this confusion, if sufficient forces may be raised, his Majesty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himself till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it presumptuous to hope that this may succeed, if we consider how easy it is to cut the thread of human life; how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. But we will suppose the worst: that I am seized, and by torture examined. Now that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy leave
England

England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his Majesty's abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the Holy Sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design.

“JAMES SHEPPARD.”

Mr. Leake was absent when this letter arrived, but on his return he read it; on which he said to his daughter and maid servant, that it was a most villainous letter, and not fit to be kept; and, in the height of his resentment, he threw it into the fire, and went up into his study; but coming down soon afterwards, his daughter told him that she had recollected that the boy who had brought the letter, said he would call for an answer on the following Monday.

Hereupon Mr. Leake determined to make the affair known to Sir John Fryer, a neighbouring magistrate, which he did the following morning; when Sir John advised him to take the party into custody when he should return for the answer. Sheppard came at the time that he had promised; when Mr. Leake sent for a constable, and had him apprehended.

Being carried before Sir John Fryer, he was asked if he had delivered a letter at Mr. Leake's on the preceding Friday, directed to the Rev. Mr. Heath. He answered in the affirmative; and being asked if he had a copy of that letter, he said he had no copy about him, but he believed he could remember it, so as to write a copy. This being done, and he having deliberately read and signed what he had written, he was committed to the Compter.

Three gentlemen were now sent to the house of the prisoner's master, and being shewn his trunk, they found, among some other papers, a copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leake's, which differed very little from that written at Sir John Fryer's, only that these words were added: “How meritorious an act will it be to free these nations from an usurpation that they have lain under these nine
and

and twenty years;" and it was insinuated that he thought it requisite, that while his Majesty (the Pretender,) should be absent from Avignon, "some person should be found resembling him, that should personate him there, lest the rumour of his departure from Avignon should awaken this inquisitive and suspicious Court."

Soon after Sheppard's commitment he was twice examined at the office of Lord Sunderland, then secretary of state; when he attempted to justify his conduct, and readily signed what he had before written.

When he was brought to his trial, he behaved in the most firm and composed manner; and after the evidence against him was given, and the jury had brought him in guilty of high-treason, he was asked why sentence should not be passed on him according to law, when he said, "He could not hope for mercy from a Prince whom he would not own." Then the recorder proceeded to pass sentence on him, which he prefaced with the following most pathetic speech:

"James Sheppard, you are convicted according to law of the greatest offence against human authority, high-treason, in compassing and imagining the death of the king. Your intent was to kill, to murder, and basely assassinate, His Majesty King George, in order to place a Popish Pretender on his throne.

"It is very surprising that one so young in years should attempt so wicked an enterprise; and it is more amazing that you should still thus defend and justify it, and not only think that there is no harm in it, but that the action, if committed, would have been meritorious.

"It was reasonable to think that you had received those impressions which incited you to this undertaking from some of those false and malicious libels which have been industriously dispersed, to delude unwary readers, and to alienate the minds of his Majesty's subjects; and it appears to be so from your own confession, that you had imbibed your principles from sermons and pamphlets, which make you think King George an usurper, and the Pretender your lawful king.

"Consider,

“Consider, unhappy young man, whether you may not be in an error ; and what I now suggest to you is not to reproach you, or to aggravate your crime, but proceeds from compassion ; and with a regard to your further consideration before you go out of the world ; that you may be convinced of your error, and retract it.

“The notions you entertain are contrary to the sense of the nation ; who found by experience that their religion, their laws, and liberties, were in imminent danger from a Popish Prince, and therefore they rescued themselves from that danger, and excluded Papists for the future from the crown ; and settled it on his Majesty and his heirs, being Protestants ; which has been confirmed by many Parliaments, and the nation feels the good effects of so happy an establishment.

“It seems strange, that you should hint at a passage in St. Paul for your justification. If he exhorted the Christians to submit to the Roman Emperors, even though they should be tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth, should not only judge of the title of kings, in opposition to the sense of so many Parliaments ; but that you should think yourself authorised to murder a Prince in peaceable possession of the throne, and by whom his subjects are protected in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges, and of every thing that is dear and valuable to mankind.

“You mention in your papers as if you must expect the most cruel tortures. No, unfortunate youth, the king you will not own uses no cruel tortures on his subjects. He is king according to the laws of the land, and by them he governs. And as you have transgressed those laws in the highest degree, public justice requires that you should submit to the sentence ordained for such an offender, which is,—

“That you be led from hence to the place from whence you came ; from thence you are to be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution, and there you are to be hanged by the neck, and being alive to be cut down, your bowels to be taken out of your belly, and there burnt, you being alive : your head is to be cut off and your body to be divided into four quarters, and your head, and quarters
to

to be disposed of as his Majesty shall think fit. And God Almighty have mercy on your soul."

After sentence was passed, Sheppard confessed that the reading some sermons, and other pamphlets, had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king; and that he was convinced he was the agent destined by Providence to accomplish the deed.—The ordinary of Newgate told him, that he should have prayed that such wicked sentiments might be removed from his mind. His reply was, that "he had prayed; and that in proportion as he prayed, he was so much the more encouraged and confirmed in the lawfulness of his design."

The unhappy youth was now visited by a nonjuring clergyman, between whom and the ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almost to the last moments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate cease till the ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to instruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed at Tyburn a few hours after the Marquis of Paleotti.

Short is the day in which ill acts prevail,
But honesty's a rock will never fail.

JOHN PRICE,

COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH,

EXECUTED IN BUNHILL-FIELDS, MAY 17, 1718, FOR THE MURDER, OF
ELIZABETH WHITE.

WHEN we commenced our labours among the musty records of criminal convictions, little did we imagine that we should find the public executioner, vulgarly called Jack Ketch, to have been himself suspended on that fatal tree to which he had tied up such a number of sinners. Here have we the fullest proof of the hardness of heart created by repeatedly witnessing executions. The dreadful fate attending those who had died by his hands, their sufferings of mind, confessions and exhortations to the spectators,

spectators, to be warned by their example, against the violation of the law, it seems, had no effect on Jack Ketch.

The callous wretch, who, in the year 1718, filled this office, was named John Price. He was born in the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields, London, of reputable parents; his father having been in the service of his country, and unfortunately blown up at the demolishing of Tangier. From her loss, the widow was reduced to poverty, which rendered her unable of giving an education to her orphan children; but she succeeded in putting John apprentice to a dealer in rags; a business by which he might have earned an honest livelihood. When he had served two years of his apprenticeship his master died, and soon after he ran away from his mistress, and got employment in the loading of waggons with rags for other dealers. He then went to sea, and served with credit, on board different ships in the royal navy, for the space of eighteen years, but at length was paid off and discharged from further service.

The office of public executioner becoming vacant it was given to Price, who, but for his extravagance, might have long continued it, and subsisted on its dreadful earned wages. On returning from an execution, in the cart which had delivered some criminals into his hands, he was arrested in Holborn for debt, which he discharged in part, with the wages he had that day earned, and the remainder from the produce of three suits of cloaths, which he had taken from the bodies of the executed men. Not long afterwards he was lodged in the Marshalsea prison for other debts, and there remained for want of bail; in consequence whereof, being unable to attend his business, at the next sessions of the Old Bailey, one William Marvel was appointed in his stead.

John Price was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that Price met the deceased near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to ravish her; but the poor woman, (who was the wife of a watchman, and sold gingerbread in the streets) doing all in her power to resist his villainous attacks,

tacks, he beat her so cruelly that streams of blood issued from her eyes and mouth, one of her arms was broken, some of her teeth knocked out, her head bruised in a most dreadful manner, one of her eyes forced from the socket, and he otherwise so ill treated her, that the language of decency cannot describe it.

Some persons hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the spot, took Price into custody, and lodged him in the watch-house; then conveyed the woman to a house, where a surgeon and nurse were sent for to attend her. Being unable to speak, she answered the nurse's questions by signs, and in that manner described what had happened to her. She died, after having languished four days.

The prisoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact; and said, that as he was crossing Moorfields, he found something lying in his way; that he kicked at it, but discovering that it was a woman, he lifted her up, but she could not stand on her legs; and he said that he was taken into custody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what some witnesses had sworn; and the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty.

After sentence of death was passed on him, he abandoned himself to the drinking of spirituous liquors, to such a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exercises of devotion. He obstinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confessed that he had been guilty of it; but said, that the crime was perpetrated when he was in a state of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill-fields, on the 31st of May, 1718, and in his last moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

LIEUTENANT

LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN ON THE 23d OF FEBRUARY, 1719.

WHEN young men mount the cockade, suspend the epaulette to the shoulder, and gird themselves with a sword, they too often neglect the duty they owe to private life. Accustomed to command, they forget that private individuals, with whom they may chuse to associate, are subject alone to the CIVIL law, which hath the power of chastising military outrages.

Mr. Bird was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies, he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army, he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial, that he had taken a woman of the town to a house of ill fame, in Silver-street, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready;* but Loxton being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand; but the prisoner ran after him, threw him down stairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this the master and mistress of the house, and Loxton, went into the room, and attempted to appease him; but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword, which lay by the bed-side, and stabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and

* In these days this description of houses was generally provided with hot baths, a very necessary *stew* after such debauches; and hence called Bagnios. In modern times uncleanness of this nature takes its due course.

died immediately; on which the offender was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate.

His case stood for trial in October, but pleading that he was not ready with his defence, it was put off to December, and then again to January, on his physicians making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death; but great interest being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of the following circumstance:

The friends of Loxton, hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the court of King's Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose, but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court, with witnesses, to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still living. This being the fact, the court refused to admit the appeal, as the second could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occasioned so much clamour, that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday the 23d of February; on the night preceding which he took a dose of poison, but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning coach, attended by his mother and the ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the instructions of the ordinary, while under confinement, so he seemed equally indifferent to his advice in the last moments of his life. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the apostle's creed, and being tied up, was launched into eternity, on the 23d of February, 1719, in the 27th year of his age.

The day before execution he delivered a paper to his friends,

friends, in which he alleges that Loxton was killed in self-defence. He concludes in these words:—

“As for the manifold reflections cast upon me since my confinement, the pretended widow’s violent prosecution, the farrier’s notoriously false affidavit, and all other offences committed against me, I heartily forgive them.

“And, to conclude, I wish all gentlemen would only weigh the fatal cause of my unhappy exit, and avoid all such houses as that the scene of this misfortune was first laid in: let me be an example to them to avoid those rocks I have split upon; that they may, with less difficulty than I have found it, be able to compose their thoughts (which I thank God I have done), through the assistance of his divine Spirit, and sink into a willing resignation to his divine will.”

This unfortunate youth seems to have fallen a sacrifice to the irregularity and violence of his own passions, to the pride of his heart, and his love of lawless pleasure. Hence let the youth who read this be taught to walk in the plain paths of sobriety and discretion, “neither turning aside to the right hand nor the left.” His taking poison and stabbing himself, to defeat the execution of the law, is a strong proof of that pride of heart we have mentioned. He could be guilty of a crime deserving the utmost ignominy, but dreaded to sustain it. Humility, then, is another doctrine to be learnt from the fate of this man.

The situation of Bird’s mother, in her attending him to Tyburn, must have been dreadful beyond all expression! Mr. Bird had been well educated, and ought to have made a different return to the care of his parents.

THOMAS BUTLER, ESQ.

HIGHWAYMAN, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 8th OF FEBRUARY, 1720.

IDLENESS, the step-mother of dissipation, hath driven many, gentlemen by education, to commit depredations on the public. This observation is fully verified in the life of Mr. Butler. He was a native of Ireland, his father

ther being an officer in the army of king James II. but king William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young Butler and his father went with James to France. When the rebellion broke out in Scotland, the young gentleman was employed as a spy in the family of the duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20*l.* a year: but he hereby lost the favour of his friends and relations, who espoused a different interest. From Paris he went to Holland, where he soon spent most of the money in his possession, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country, being idle and extravagant, he commenced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occasionally acted as his servant; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particularly in Kent and Essex.

When they were in London, and sometimes in a country town, they had the genteelest lodging, and then Jack wore a livery, while the squire was dressed in a most elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this style of living they continued their depredations on the highway for many years; but Butler being at length apprehended, was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, in January, 1720. He was indicted for robbing Sir Justinian Isham and another gentleman on the highway, of a gold watch, a silk night-gown, six Holland shirts, and other valuable articles; and was convicted on the clearest evidence.

The circumstance that led to his detection was, that offering some of the effects for sale to a jeweller, he refused to purchase them unless he knew Butler's place of residence, which the latter readily told him; and, when his lodgings were searched, Sir Justinian's gown was found, and was produced in court. Butler's companion, or servant, was in Ireland, at the time of his detection, by which he escaped the fate he deserved.

While Mr. Butler lay under sentence of death, he behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman Catholic, he received the sacrament from a priest of his own persuasion.

persuasion. It had been reported that he had eight wives, but this he solemnly denied; declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of forty-two years.

BARBARA SPENCER,

TRAITORESS, STRANGLED AND THEN BURNT AT TYBURN, ON THE 5th OF JULY, 1721.

THIS woman being the first sufferer for coining, which we find among the criminal records of the last century, we shall, agreeably to the order of our work, give a few general comments on the crime itself, and the law provided for the offence, previous to entering upon her particular case.

The mischief arising from the counterfeiting the current coin of the realm, reaches to every door. A poor man, cheated by a single base shilling, frequently sustains a loss, greater than a forgery to the wealthy merchant.

Coining, or uttering base money, is high-treason in the second degree. To rob all the people is to be a traitor to the state. But it is asked, whether a merchant, who imports ingots of gold from America, and privately converts them into good money, be guilty of high-treason, and merits death, which is the punishment annexed to this crime, in almost all countries. Nevertheless, he has robbed nobody; on the contrary, he has done service to the state, by increasing the currency. But he had defrauded the king of the small profit upon the coin. He hath indeed coined money, but he hath led others into the temptation of coining bad. Yet death is a severe punishment. A lawyer was of opinion that such a criminal should be condemned, as a useful hand, to work in the royal mint, with irons to his legs.

The vast increase and extensive circulation of counterfeit money, some years ago, was too obvious not to have attracted the notice of all ranks. It had become an enormous

enormous evil in the melancholy catalogue of crimes which the laws of the country were called upon to assist the police to suppress. Its extent almost exceeded credibility; and the dexterity and ingenuity of the coiners had (after considerable practice) enabled them to finish the different kinds of base money in so masterly a manner, that it had become extremely difficult for a common observer to distinguish their spurious manufacture from the genuine silver of the mint. So systematic, indeed, had this nefarious traffic become, that the great dealers, who in most instances were the employers of the coiners, executed orders for the town and country with the same regularity as manufacturers in fair branches of trade.

Scarcely a waggon or coach departed from the metropolis which did not carry boxes and parcels of base coin to the camps, sea-ports, and manufacturing towns. In London, regular markets, in various public and private houses, were held by the principal dealers; where hawkers, pedlars, fraudulent horse-dealers, unlicensed lottery-office keepers, gamblers at fairs, itinerant Jews, Irish labourers, servants of toll-gatherers, and hackney-coach owners, fraudulent publicans, market-women, rabbit-sellers, fish-criers, barrow-women, and many who could not be suspected, were regularly supplied with counterfeit copper and silver, with the advantage of nearly 100%. per cent in their favour; and thus it happened that, through these various channels, the country was deluged with immense quantities of base money. This nefarious system, however, has very materially decreased of late years.

It is impossible to reflect on the necessity to which all persons were thus reduced, of receiving, and again uttering, money which was known to be false and counterfeit, without lamenting, that by thus familiarising the mind to fraud and deception, the same laxity of conduct might be introduced into other transactions of life: the barrier being broken down in one part, the principle of common honesty was infringed upon, and infinite mischief to the very best interests of society might have been the result, had not a remedy been applied.

To permit, therefore, the existence of an adulterated
and

and base coinage, without using every exertion to detect and suppress it, is, in fact, to tolerate general fraud and deception; it must at the same time be observed, that the evil, great as it now is, was considerably greater before the issue of the new silver coinage in 1817, there being at that time scarcely a shilling or a sixpence in circulation which was not worn so plain as to retain no appearance of ever having issued from the mint.

As a proof of the activity of coiners, counterfeits of the new shillings and sixpences which were first issued to the public on the 3d of February, 1817, were in circulation at the same time; and within two or three months afterwards a man was apprehended at Birmingham, and committed to Warwick goal, on a charge of coining and uttering; and another was taken into custody on his way from Birmingham to London with 1068 counterfeit sixpences, also of the new coinage. It was understood that ten or twelve persons were waiting his arrival at a public house in London, to purchase small quantities of counterfeit money of him.

The mischief has not been confined to the counterfeiting the coin of the realm. The avarice and ingenuity of man is constantly finding out new sources of fraud; inso-much that in London, and in Birmingham and its neighbourhood, Louis d'Ors, Half Johannas, French half-crowns and shillings, as well as several coins of Flanders and Germany, and dollars of excellent workmanship, in exact imitation of the Spanish dollars issued from the Bank in 1797, have been from time to time counterfeited; apparently without suspicion, that under the act of the 14th Elizabeth, (cap. 3,) the offenders were guilty of misprision of high treason.

These ingenious miscreants have also extended their iniquitous manufacture to the coins of India; and a coinage of the star pagoda of Arcot was established in London for years, by one person. These counterfeits, being made wholly of blanchéd copper, tempered in such a manner as to exhibit, when stamped, the cracks in the edges, which are always to be found on the real pagoda, cost the maker only three halfpence each, after being double gilt. When finished, they were generally sold to

Jews, at five shillings a dozen, who disposed of them afterwards at 2s. 3s. and even 5s. each; and through this medium they have been introduced by a variety of channels into India, where they were mixed with the real pagodas of the country, and passed at their full denominated value of 8s. sterling.

The sequins of Turkey, another gold coin, worth about five or six shillings, have in like manner been counterfeited in London. Thus the national character is wounded, and the disgrace of the British name proclaimed in Asia, and even in the most distant regions of India. Nor can it be sufficiently lamented, that persons who consider themselves as ranking in superior stations of life, with some pretensions to honour and integrity, have suffered their avarice so far to get the better of their honesty, as to be concerned in this iniquitous traffic.

It has been discovered that there are at least 120 persons in the metropolis, and in the country, employed principally in coining, and selling base money! and this, independent of the numerous horde of utterers, who chiefly support themselves by passing it at its full value. It will scarcely be credited, that of criminals of this latter class, who were either detected, prosecuted, or convicted, within seven years, there stood upon the register of the Solicitor to the Mint more than 650 names! When the reader is informed, that two persons can finish from 200*l.* to 300*l.* (nominal value) in base silver in six days, and takes into calculation the number of known coiners, the aggregate amount in the course of a year will be found to be immense.

On the circulation of Spanish dollars in 1804, a Jew was apprehended for uttering base ones, and also suspected of being the coiner of them; but there being no provision in the act against counterfeiting this coin, though it had been called in before, (1797,) the offender escaped with impunity.

So dexterous and skilful have coiners become, that by mixing a certain proportion of pure gold with a compound of base metal, they can fabricate gold coin that shall be full weight, and of such perfect workmanship, as to elude a discovery, except by persons of skill; while the intrinsic

trinsic value does not exceed half what they are intended to pass for, and in some instances is not even so much as that. Of guineas considerable quantities were circulated some years since, bearing the impression of George II. and another coinage of counterfeit guineas of the year 1793, bearing the impression of George III. was for some years in circulation, finished in a masterly manner, and nearly full weight, although the intrinsic value was not above eight shillings: half guineas were also in circulation, of the same coinage; and a good imitation of the seven shilling pieces. But the fabrication of this coin requires a greater degree of skill and ingenuity than generally prevails, and also a greater capital than most coiners are able to command. The guineas and half guineas, which were counterfeited in a style to elude detection, bore no proportion in point of extent to the coinage of base silver, of which there were five different kinds counterfeited previously to the new coinage, and which we shall proceed to enumerate.

The first of these were denominated flats, from the circumstance of this species of money being cut out of flatted plates, composed of a mixture of silver and blanded copper. The proportion of silver ran from one-fourth to one-third, and in some instances even to one-half: the metals were mixed by a chemical preparation, and afterwards rolled by flatting mills into the thickness of shillings, half-crowns, or crowns, according to the desire of the parties who brought the copper and silver, which last was generally stolen plate. It was not known that there were above one or two rolling mills in London, although there were several in the country, where all the dealers and coiners of this species of base money resorted, for the purpose of having these plates prepared; from which, when finished, blanks, or round pieces, were cut out, of the sizes of the money meant to be counterfeited.

The artisans who stamped or coined these blanks into base money were seldom interested themselves. They generally worked as mechanics for the larger dealers, who employed a capital in the trade; and who furnished the plates, and paid about eight per cent. for the coinage, being

being at the rate of one penny for each shilling, and two-pence-halfpenny for each half-crown.

This operation consisted first in turning the blanks in a lathe, then stamping them by means of a press, with dies with the exact impression of the coin intended to be imitated; they were afterwards rubbed with sand paper and cork; then put into aqua-fortis, to bring the silver to the surface; then rubbed with common salt; then with cream of tartar; then warmed in a shovel, or similar machine, before the fire; and last of all rubbed with blacking, to give the money the appearance of having been in circulation.

All these operations were so quickly performed, that ^{two} persons (a man and his wife for instance) could completely finish to the nominal amount of fifty pounds, in shillings and half crowns, in two days, by which each of them would earn two guineas a day.

A shilling of this species, which exhibited nearly the appearance of what was usually called a Birmingham shilling, is intrinsically worth from twopence to fourpence; and crowns and half-crowns were in the same proportion. The quantity made of this sort of counterfeit coinage was very considerable; it required less ingenuity than any of the other methods of coining, though at the same time it was the most expensive, and of course the least profitable to the dealer; who for the most part disposed of it to the utterers, vulgarly called smashers, at from 28s. to 40s. for a guinea, according to the quality; while these smashers generally managed to utter it again at the full import value.

The second species of counterfeit silver money passed among the dealers by the denomination of plated goods; from the circumstance of the shillings and half-crowns being made of copper of a reduced size, and afterwards plated with silver, so extended as to form a rim round the edge. This coin was afterwards stamped with dies, so as to resemble the real coin; and, from the circumstance of the surface being pure silver, was not easily discovered, except by ringing the money on a table; but as this species of base money required a knowledge of plating,

ting, as well as a great deal of ingenuity, it was of course confined to few hands. It was, however, extremely profitable to those who carried it on, as it could generally be uttered, without detection, at its full import value.

The third species of base silver money was called plain goods, and was totally confined to shillings. These were made of copper blanks turned in a lathe, of the exact size of a Birmingham shilling, afterwards silvered over by a particular operation used in colouring metal buttons; they were then rubbed over with cream of tartar and blacking, after which they were fit for circulation.

These shillings did not cost the makers above one halfpenny each; they were sold at a very low price to the smashers or utterers, who passed them where they could, at the full nominal value; and when the silver wore off, which was very soon the case, they were sold to the Jews as bad shillings, who generally resold them at a small profit to customers, by whom they were recoloured, and thus soon brought again into circulation. The profit was immense, owing to the trifling value of the materials; but the circulation was never extensive.

The fourth class of counterfeit silver money was known by the name of castings, or cast goods. This species of work required great skill and ingenuity, and was therefore confined to few hands; for none but excellent artists could attempt it, with any prospect of great success.

The process was to melt blanchéd copper, and to cast it in moulds, having the impression, and being the size of a crown, a half-crown, a shilling, or a sixpence, as the case might be; after being removed from the moulds, the money thus formed was cleaned off, and afterwards neatly silvered over by an operation similar to that which takes place in the manufacture of buttons.

The counterfeit money made in imitation of shillings by this process, was generally cast so as to have a crooked appearance; and the deception was so admirable, that although intrinsically not worth one halfpenny, by exhibiting the appearance of a thick crooked shilling, they entered into circulation without suspicion, and were seldom refused while the surface exhibited no part of the copper;

copper; and even after this the itinerant Jews purchased them at threepence each, though six times their intrinsic value, well knowing that they could be again recoloured at the expense of half a farthing, so as to pass without difficulty for their nominal value of twelve-pence.

In fabricating cast money, the workmen are always more secure than where presses and dies are used; because, upon the least alarm, and before any officer of justice can have admission, the counterfeits are thrown into the crucible, the moulds are destroyed, and nothing is to be found that can convict, or even criminate, the offender: on this account the makers of cast money reigned long, and had they been careful and frugal they might have become extremely rich; but prudence rarely falls to the lot of men who live by acts of criminality.

The fifth and last species of base coin made in imitation of silver money of the realm was called figs, or fig-things. It was a very inferior sort of counterfeit money, of which composition, however, a great part of the six-pences were made. The proportion of silver was not, generally speaking, of the value of one farthing in half-a-crown: although there were certainly some exceptions, as counterfeit sixpences were circulated, some with a mixture, and some wholly silver: but even these did not yield the maker less than from 50 to 80 per cent.

One of the principal coiners of stamped money, who many years since left off business, and made some important discoveries, acknowledged to the author, that he had coined to the extent of two hundred thousand pounds sterling in counterfeit half-crowns, and other base silver money, in a period of seven years. This is the less surprising, as two persons can stamp and finish to the amount of from 200*l.* to 300*l.* a week.

Of the copper money made in imitation of the current coin of the realm, there were many different sorts sold at various prices, according to the size and weight; but in general they may be divided into two kinds, namely, the stamped and the plain halfpence, of both which kinds immense quantities were made in London, and also in Birmingham, Wedgbury, Bilston, Wolverhampton, &c.

The

The plain halfpence were generally made at Birmingham; and from their thickness afforded a wonderful deception. They were sold, however, by the coiners, to the large dealers, at about a farthing each, or 100 per cent. profit in the tale or aggregate number. These dealers were not the utterers, but sold them again by retail in pieces, or five shilling papers, at the rate of from 28s. to 31s. for a guinea, not only to the smashers, but also to little tradespeople.

Farthings were also made in considerable quantities, chiefly in London, but so very thin that the profit upon this species of coinage was much greater than on the halfpence, though not, as formerly, made of base metal. The copper of which they were made was generally pure, the advantage lying in the weight alone, where the coiners, sellers, and utterers, did not obtain less than 200 per cent. A well known coiner has been said to finish from sixty to eighty pounds sterling a week. Of halfpence two or three persons could stamp and finish to the nominal amount of at least two hundred pounds in six days.

When it is considered that there were seldom less than between forty and fifty coinages or private mints, almost constantly employed in London, and in different country towns, in stamping and fabricating base silver and copper money, the evil may justly be said to have arrived at an enormous height. It is indeed true, that these people were a good deal interrupted and embarrassed by detections and convictions; but the laws were so inapplicable to the tricks and devices they resorted to, that these convictions were only a drop in the bucket: while such encouragements were held out, the execution of one rogue only made room for another to take up his customers; and, indeed, the offence of selling being only a misdemeanour, it was no unusual thing for the wife and family of a culprit, or convicted seller of base money, to carry on the business, and to support him luxuriously in Newgate, until the expiration of the year and day's imprisonment, the punishment generally inflicted for this species of offence.

It

It has not been an unusual thing for several of these dealers to hold a kind of market, every morning, where from forty to fifty of the German Jew boys were regularly supplied with counterfeit halfpence, which they disposed of in the course of the day in different streets and lanes of the metropolis, for bad shillings, at about threepence each, care being taken that the person crying bad shillings should have a companion near him to carry the halfpence, and take charge of the purchased shillings, so as to elude the detection of the officers of the police, in the event of being searched.

The bad shillings thus purchased were received in payment by the employers of the boys, for the bad halfpence supplied by them, at the rate of four shillings per dozen; and were generally resold to smashers, at a profit of two shillings a dozen; who speedily recoloured them, and introduced them again into circulation, at their full nominal value.

The boys generally cleared from five to seven shillings a day by this fraudulent business; which they almost uniformly spent, during the evening, in riot and debauchery; returning pennyless in the morning to their old trade.

Thus the frauds upon the public multiply beyond all possible conception, while the tradesman, who, unwarily at least, if not improperly, sells his counterfeit shillings to Jew boys at threepence each, little suspects that it is for the purpose of being returned upon him again at the rate of twelvepence; or 300 per cent. profit to the purchasers and utterers.

But these are not the only criminal devices to which the coiners and dealers, as well as the utterers of base money, have had recourse, for answering their iniquitous purposes.

Previous to the act of the 37th Geo. 3, cap. 126, counterfeit French crowns, half-crowns, and shillings, of excellent workmanship, were introduced with a view to elude the punishment of the then deficient laws relative to foreign coin.

Fraudulent

Fraudulent die-sinkers are to be found, both in the metropolis and in Birmingham, who are excellent artists, able to copy any coin; and by means of these, delinquents too often succeed in defrauding the unwary.

Since the old coin was withdrawn from circulation, however, the quantity of base money has been comparatively trifling, although it is still much greater than many persons are aware of.

In the month of May, 1721, Barbara Spencer, Alice Hall, and Elizabeth Bray, were indicted at the Old Bailey for high treason, in counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom; when Hall and Bray were acquitted, as being only agents to the other, and Spencer, being found guilty, was sentenced to be burnt.

Barbara Spencer was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, and when young, proved to be of a violent temper. At length, her mother, finding her quite unmanageable, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who treated her with great kindness.

Barbara had served about two years, when, on a dispute with her mistress, she went home to her mother, with whom she had not long resided, before she insisted on having a maid kept; to which the old woman consented. A quarrel soon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interposed; on which the daughter left her for a time, but soon returned again.

Not long after this, it happened that some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who, struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter, getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and thence to a house near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe, that she might live in an easy manner, if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and, as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which she was tried, fined, and imprisoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connexions, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death, she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient, under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burnt; but, at the place of execution, she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion, though interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burnt.*

JOHN MATTHEWS,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, NOV. 16, 1719, FOR HIGH TREASON.

JOHN Matthews was the son of a printer, in Aldersgate-street, to whom he was apprenticed; but, his father dying, he continued to serve with his mother. Having made connexions with some persons of Jacobite principles, he printed some papers against the government, for which he was once taken into custody; but the evidence being incomplete, he was dismissed.

Encouraged by this escape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled “*Ex ore tuo te Judico: Vox Populi vox Dei.*”† For this offence he was brought to trial on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had composed‡ the pages in question, but locked them

* This, as well as the torture to such as would not plead, is now dispensed with. It is surprising that this punishment should so long have disgraced the country. In the case of Catherine Hayes, hereafter given, we shall have occasion to adduce a shocking instance of her being, from mismanagement, actually burnt alive!

† That is, “Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:” — “The voice of the people is the voice of God.”

‡ “Composing” is a term with printers, which signifies picking up the letters and arranging them in proper order for their being worked off by the printing-press.

up,

up, lest they should be found, and made use of to his prejudice.

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himself by his propensity to printing such pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-office every night, and bring him the key; but Vezey, like a villain as he was, first suffered the young fellow to print the supposed treasonable matter, and then gave evidence against him.

A general warrant being granted by the secretary of state, for the search of Mrs. Matthews's house, the messengers of government found a number of the supposed libel in a room which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the secretary of state, who committed him to Newgate, on his refusing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey swore that the prisoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the press, and bid him pull a proof of it, which he did; and that the prisoner desired him to come early in the morning to work off the sheets, saying that he himself would take care of the paper, and that every thing should be ready. Accordingly Vezey went early next morning; the prisoner let him in, and called Harper, the apprentice; who assisted Vezey in working off the sheets, Matthews standing by, and taking them from the press, for the greater expedition: and, when the work was done, the prisoner paid Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was confirmed by Harper, who saw the prisoner composing the matter from the manuscript copy.

The counsel for the crown exerted their utmost abilities to aggravate the crime of the prisoner, and the king's messengers swearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who also accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour, after sentence, was such as might be expected from one who had too much

sense to expect favour from the people then in power ; for it was not customary at that period to extend mercy to persons convicted of treasonable offences : but, perhaps, their seeming want of humanity will appear the more excusable, if we reflect on the fatal consequences that might have ensued from the rebellion in 1715.

John Matthews was executed before he had completed the 19th year of his age ; and was pitied by every one who had not lost the common feelings of humanity.

MATTHEW CLARKE,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JULY 28, 1721, FOR MURDER.

THIS offender was the son of poor persons at St. Albans, and brought up as a plough-boy ; but, being too idle to follow his business, he sauntered about the country, and committed frequent robberies, spending among women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to some of whom he promised marriage ; and he seems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot. But going into a goldsmith's shop, however, to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman staid in town while he went to Wilsden-Green, with a view to commit a robbery, that he might replenish his pocket. As it was now the season of haymaking, he met a man, who, wondering that he should be idle, gave him employment. Besides the business of farming, his employer kept a public-house, and had a servant-maid, whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain, leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the house, where finding only the girl at home, he conversed with her some time. Having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely without murdering her ; and while she was gone to draw him some beer, he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose.

purpose. When she entered the room, he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience prevented him. He sat down and talked with her; but after some time, he started up, and while in the act of kissing her cut her throat. She fell down, and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood streamed from her throat, on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and then robbing the house of a small sum, ran off towards London, under all the agonising tortures of a wounded conscience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was so terrified at the sight of the gallows, that he went back a considerable distance, till meeting a wagon, he offered his service in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected, in case of a pursuit. But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected of a murder. He seemed so terrified by the question, that the parties could not help noticing his agitation, and, on a close inspection, they found some congealed on his clothes, to account for which he said he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road.

Being taken into custody, he soon acknowledged his crime, and, being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate; and when brought to trial he pleaded guilty, in consequence of which he was hung in chains near the spot where he committed the murder.

JOHN MEFF,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, SEPTEMBER 11, 1721.

THIS offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London; but as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace, passed in the reign of King George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him, and he would have been discharged without further ceremony, had it not appeared that he had been transported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time. In consequence of this he

he was indicted on an act then lately made, "For the effectual transportation of felons;" and his person being identified, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation and the day of his execution:—

"I was born in London of French parents, who fled hither for protection, when the French Protestants were driven out of France by Louis XIV.

"I was put apprentice to a weaver: my father, having continued about twelve years in England, went with the rest of his family to Holland. I served my time faithfully, and with the approbation of my master.—Soon after I came to work for myself, I married; but my business not being sufficient to maintain myself, my wife, and children, I was willing to try what I could at thieving.

"I followed this practice till I was apprehended, tried, and condemned for house-breaking; but, as I was going to the place of execution, the hangman was arrested, and I was brought back to Newgate. It was thought this was my contrivance, to put a stop to public justice; but I was so far from being any ways concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it was done. This might have been a happy turn for me, if I had made a right use of it; for my sentence of death was changed for that of transportation. And, indeed, I took up a solemn resolution to lead an honest and regular course of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my comrades to the contrary. But this resolution continued but a short time after the fear of death vanished.

"I believe, however, that if I had been safe landed in America, my ruin might have been prevented; but the ship which carried me and other convicts was taken by the pirates. They would have persuaded me and some others to sign a paper, in order to become pirates; but we refusing, they put me and eight more ashore on a desert, uninhabited island, where we must have perished with hunger, if by good fortune an Indian canoe had not arrived there. We waited till the Indians had gone up the island, and then, getting into the vessel, we sailed from

from one small island to another, till we reached the coast of America.

“ Not choosing to settle in any of the plantations there, but preferring the life of a sailor, I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried merchandise from Virginia and South Carolina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his majesty’s islands. And thus I lived a considerable time ; but at last being over desirous to see how my wife and children fared in England, I was resolved to return at all adventures.

“ Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into my former wicked practices, and it was not long before I was committed to Newgate on suspicion of robbing a person near London ; but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I broke out of prison and went to Hatfield, where I lay concealed for some time ; but was at last discovered, and taken again by the same bricklayer who had procured my escape. Some evil genius attended me. I was certainly infatuated, or I had never continued in a place where I was so likely to be discovered.

“ My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam. It is an addition to my misfortune that I cannot see him and my mother before I die ; but I hope, when he hears of my unhappy end, he will keep my children by my first wife from starving. My present wife is able, by her industry, to bring up her own offspring ; for she has been an honest careful woman, during the nine months I have been married to her, and has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and lead a regular and sober life. It had been well for me if I had taken her advice.

“ I have had enough of this restless and tumultuous world, and I hope I am now going to a better. I am very easy and resigned to the will of Providence, not doubting but I have made my peace with heaven. I thank God that I have not been molested by my fellow-prisoners, with the least cursing or swearing in the condemned hole ; but have had an opportunity of employing every moment of my time in preparing for a future state.”

NATHANIEL

NATHANIEL HAWES,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, DEC. 21, 1721, WHO UNDERWENT THE TORTURE.

AT the time of the sufferings of this man, the year 1721, such prisoners as contumaciously refused to plead to their indictments, underwent torture until they complied with the law as it then regarded their case. This punishment is however no longer deemed compatible with freedom; and it was therefore abrogated in the year 1772. Yet, as the inhuman practice prevailed in some of the English settlements abroad until very recently, and as many nations continue to torture criminals, we shall, agreeably to our custom of giving our essays on crimes and punishments at the head of our account of the first sufferers for the crime, previously to entering upon the case of Hawes, offer some observations on torture.

In order to extort confession, torture is still practised in China. The instrument of barbarity called the rack, is composed of a thick strong plank, having a contrivance at one end to secure the hands, and at the other a sort of double wooden vice. The vice is formed of three stout uprights, two of which are moveable, but steadied by a block that is fastened on each side. The ancles of the culprit being placed in the machine, a cord is passed round the uprights, and held fast by two men. The chief tormentor then gradually introduces a wedge into the intervals, alternately changing sides. The method of forcing an expansion at the upper part causes the lower ends to draw towards the central upright, which is fixed unto the plank, and thereby compresses the ancles of the wretched sufferer; who, provided he be fortified by innocence or resolution, endures the advances of the wedge until his bones are reduced to a jelly.

Stedman, in his account of Surinam, relates the following horrid scene, of which he was an eye-witness:—

“ There was a negro whose name was Neptune, no slave, but his own master, and a carpenter by trade; he was young and handsome, but having killed the overseer of the estate of Altona, in the Para Creek, in consequence of

of some dispute, he justly forfeited his life. The particulars, however, are worth relating :

“ This man having stolen a sheep to entertain a favourite young woman, the overseer, who burned with jealousy, had determined to see him hanged ; to prevent which, the negro shot him dead among the sugar canes. For these offences, of course, he was sentenced to be broken alive upon the rack, without the benefit of the *coup de grace*, or mercy-stroke. Informed of the dreadful sentence, he composedly laid himself down upon his back on a strong cross, on which, with his arms and legs extended, he was fastened by ropes. The executioner, also a black man, having now with a hatchet chopped off his left hand, next took up a heavy iron bar, with which, by repeated blows, he broke his bones to shivers, till the marrow, blood, and splinters, flew about the field ; but the prisoner never uttered a groan or a sigh ! The ropes being next unlashd, I imagined him dead, and felt happy ; till the magistrates stirring to depart, he writhed himself from the cross, when he fell on the grass, and damned them all as a set of barbarous rascals. At the same time, removing his right hand up by the help of his teeth, he rested his head on part of the timber, and asked the bystanders for a pipe of tobacco, which was infamously answered by kicking and spitting on him, till I, with some American seamen, thought proper to prevent it. He then begged his head might be chopped off ; but to no purpose. At last, seeing no end to his misery, he declared, ‘ that though he had deserved death, he had not expected to die so many deaths ; however,’ said he, ‘ you *Christians* have missed your aim at last, and I now care not were I to remain thus one month longer.’ After which he sung two extempore songs, with a clear voice ; the subjects of which were, to bid adieu to his living friends, and to acquaint his deceased relations that in a very little time he should be with them, to enjoy their company for ever in a better place. This done, he calmly entered into conversation with some gentlemen concerning his trial, relating every particular with uncommon tranquillity. ‘ But,’ said he, abruptly, ‘ by the sun it must be eight o’clock,

and by any longer discourse I should be sorry to be the cause of your losing your breakfast.' Then casting his eyes on a Jew, whose name was De Veries, 'Apropos, sir,' said he, 'won't you please to pay me the ten shillings you owe me?' 'For what to do?' 'To buy meat and drink, to be sure—don't you perceive I'm to be kept alive?' Which speech, on seeing the Jew stare like a fool, this mangled wretch accompanied with a loud and hearty laugh. Next observing the soldier, that stood sentinel over him, biting occasionally a piece of dry bread, he asked him how it came to pass that he, a *white man*, should have no meat to eat with it? 'Because I am not so rich,' answered the soldier. 'Then I will make you a present, sir,' said the negro: 'first, pick my hand, that was chopped off, clean to the bone; next, begin to devour my body till you are gluttoned; when you will have both bread and meat, as best becomes you:' which piece of humour was followed by a second laugh. And thus he continued until I left him, which was about three hours after the dreadful execution.

"Wonderful it is, indeed, that human nature should be able to endure so much torture! which, assuredly, could only be supported by a mixture of rage, contempt, pride, and the glory of braving his tormentors, from whom he was so soon to escape.

"I never recal to my remembrance, without the most painful sensation, this horrid scene, which must revolt the feelings of all who have one spark of humanity. If the reader, however, should be offended with my dwelling so long on this unpleasant subject, let it be some relief to his reflection, to consider this punishment not inflicted as a wanton and unprovoked act of cruelty, but as the extreme severity of the Surinam laws on a desperate wretch, suffering, as an example to others, for complicated crimes; while at the same time, it cannot but give me, and I hope many others, some consolation to reflect, that the above barbarous mode of punishment was hitherto never put in practice in the British colonies. I must now relate an incident which, as it had a momentary effect on my imagination, might have had a lasting one on some who had not

not investigated the real cause of it, and which it gave me no small satisfaction to discover.

“ About three in the afternoon, walking towards the place of execution, with my thoughts full of the affecting scene, and the image of the sufferer fresh in my mind, the first object I saw was his head, at some distance, placed on a stake, *nodding* to me backwards and forwards, as if he had been really alive. I instantly stopped short, and seeing no person in the savannah, nor a breath of wind sufficient to move a leaf or a feather, I acknowledge that I was riveted to the spot, without the resolution to advance; till reflecting, that it must be weakness to fear this dead skull, I resolved to find out the wonderful phenomenon, if possible. Boldly walking up, I instantly discovered the cause, by the return of a vulture to the gallows, who perched upon it as if he meant to dispute with me this feast of carrion; which bird, having already picked out one of the eyes, had fled at my first approach, and striking the skull with his talons, as he took his sudden flight, occasioned the motion already described. I shall now only add, that this poor wretch, after living more than six hours, had been knocked on the head by the commiserating sentinel, the marks of whose musket were perfectly visible by a large open fracture in the skull.”

The torture of a criminal during the course of his trial, is a cruelty consecrated by custom in most nations. It is used with an intent either to make him confess his crime, or explain some contradictions into which he had been led during his examination, or to discover his accomplices, or for some kind of metaphysical and incomprehensible purgation of infamy, or, finally, in order to discover other crimes, of which he is not accused, but of which he may be guilty.

No man can be judged a criminal until he be found guilty; nor can society take from him the public protection, until it have been proved that he has violated the conditions on which it was granted. What right, then, but that of power, can authorise the punishment of a citizen, so long as there remains any doubt of his guilt? This dilemma is frequent. Either he is guilty or not guilty.

guilty. If guilty, he should only suffer the punishment ordained by the laws, and torture becomes useless, as his confession is unnecessary. If he be not guilty, you torture the innocent; for, in the eye of the law, every man is innocent whose crime has not been proved. Besides it is confounding all relations, to expect that a man should be both the accuser and the accused; and that pain should be the test of truth, as if truth resided in the muscles and fibres of a wretch in torture. By this method, the robust will escape and the feeble be condemned. These are the inconveniences of this pretended test of truth, worthy only of a cannibal; and which the Romans, in many respects barbarous, and whose savage virtue has been too much admired, reserved for the slaves alone.

What is the political intention of punishments? To terrify, and be an example to others. Is this intention answered, by thus privately torturing the guilty and the innocent? It is, doubtless, of importance that no crime should remain unpunished; but it is useless to make a public example of the author of a crime hid in darkness. A crime already committed, and for which there can be no remedy, can only be punished by a political society, with an intention that no hopes of impunity should induce others to commit the same. If it be true, that the number of those who, from fear or virtue, respect the laws is greater than of those by whom they are violated, the risk of torturing an innocent person is greater, as there is a greater probability that, *cæteris paribus*, an individual hath observed than he hath infringed the laws.

There is another ridiculous motive for torture, namely, to purge a man from infamy. Ought such an abuse to be tolerated in the nineteenth century? Can pain, which is a sensation, have any connexion with a moral sentiment, a matter of opinion? Perhaps the rack may be considered as the refiner's furnace.

It is not difficult to trace this senseless law to its origin; for an absurdity adopted by a whole nation must have some affinity with other ideas established and respected by the same nation. This custom seems to be the offspring of religion, by which mankind, in all nations, and in all ages,

ages, are so generally influenced. We are taught by the Catholic church, that those stains of sin contracted through human frailty, and which have not deserved the eternal anger of the Almighty, are to be purged away in another life by an incomprehensible fire. Now infamy is a stain; and if the punishments and fire of purgatory can take away all spiritual stains, why should not the pain of torture take away those of a civil nature? I imagine that the confession of a criminal, which, in some tribunals, is required as being essential to his condemnation, has a similar origin, and has been taken from the mysterious tribunal of penitence, where the confession of sins is a necessary part of the sacrament. Thus have men abused the unerring light of revelation; and, in the times of tractable ignorance, having no other, they naturally had recourse to it on every occasion, making the most remote and absurd applications. Moreover, infamy is a sentiment regulated neither by the laws nor by reason, but entirely by opinion; but torture renders the victim infamous, and therefore cannot take infamy away.

Another intention of torture is, to oblige the supposed criminal to reconcile the contradictions into which he may have fallen during his examinations; as if the dread of punishment, the uncertainty of his fate, the solemnity of the court, the majesty of the judge, and the ignorance of the accused, were not abundantly sufficient to account for contradictions, which are so common to men even in a state of tranquillity, and which must necessarily be multiplied by the perturbation of the mind of a man entirely engaged in the thoughts of saving himself from imminent danger.

This infamous test of truth is a remaining monument of that ancient and savage legislation, in which trials by fire, by boiling water, or the uncertainty of combats, were called *judgments of God*; as if the links of that eternal chain, whose beginning is in the breast of the First Cause of all things, could ever be disunited by the institutions of men! The only difference between torture and trials by fire and boiling water is, that the event of the first depends on the will of the accused; and of the second, on a fact entirely physical and external. But this difference

ference is apparent only, not real. A man on the rack, in the convulsions of torture, has it as little in his power to declare the truth, as in former times, to prevent, without fraud, the effects of fire or boiling water.

Every act of the will is invariably in proportion to the force of the impression on our senses. The impression of pain, then, may increase to such a degree, that, occupying the mind entirely, it will compel the sufferer to use the shortest method of freeing himself from torment. His answer, therefore, will be an effect as necessary as that of fire or boiling water, and he will accuse himself of crimes of which he is innocent; so that the very means employed to distinguish the innocent from the guilty, will most effectually destroy all difference between them.

It would be superfluous to confirm these reflections by examples of innocent persons, who, from the agony of torture, have confessed themselves guilty; innumerable instances may be found in all nations, and in every age. How amazing that mankind have always neglected to draw the natural conclusion! Lives there a man, who, if he has carried his thoughts ever so little beyond the necessities of life, when he reflects on such cruelty, is not tempted to fly from society, and return to his natural state of independence?

The result of torture, then, is a matter of calculation, and depends on the constitution, which differs in every individual, and is in proportion to his strength and sensibility; so that to discover truth by this method is a problem, which may be better resolved by a mathematician than a judge, and may be thus stated:—The force of the muscles and the sensibility of the nerves of an innocent person being given, it is required to find the degree of pain necessary to make him confess himself guilty of a given crime.

The examination of the accused is intended to find out the truth; but if this be discovered with so much difficulty in the air, gesture, and countenance of a man at ease, how can it appear in a countenance distorted by the convulsions of torture? Every violent action destroys those small alternations in the feature, which sometimes disclose the sentiments of the heart.

These

These truths were known to the Roman legislators, amongst whom slaves only, who were not considered as citizens, were tortured. They are known to the English, a nation in which the progress of science, superiority in commerce, riches, and power, its natural consequences, together with the numerous examples of virtue and courage, leave no doubt of the excellence of its laws. They have been acknowledged in Sweden, where torture has been abolished. They were known to one of the wisest monarchs in Europe, who, having seated philosophy on the throne, by his beneficent legislation, has made his subjects free, though dependent on the laws; the only freedom that reasonable men can desire in the present state of things. In short, torture has not been thought necessary in the laws of armies, composed chiefly of the dregs of mankind, where its use should seem most necessary. Strange phenomenon! that a set of men, hardened by slaughter and familiar with blood, should teach humanity to the sons of peace.

A very strange but necessary consequence of the use of torture is, that the case of the innocent is worse than that of the guilty. With regard to the first, either he confesses the crime which he has not committed, and is condemned, or he is acquitted, and has suffered a punishment he did not deserve. On the contrary, the person who is really guilty has the most favourable side of the question; for if he supports the torture with firmness and resolution he is acquitted, and has gained, having exchanged a greater punishment for a less.

The law by which torture is authorised, says—"Men, be insensible to pain. Nature has, indeed, given you an irresistible self-love, and an unalienable right of self-preservation; but I create in you a contrary sentiment, an heroical hatred of yourselves. I command you to accuse yourselves, and to declare the truth, amidst the tearing of your flesh and the dislocation of your bones."

Torture is used to discover whether the criminal be guilty of other crimes besides those of which he is accused, which is equivalent to the following reasoning:—"Thou art guilty of one crime, therefore it is possible that thou mayest have committed a thousand others; but the

the affair being doubtful, I must try it by my criterion of truth. The laws order thee to be tormented because thou art guilty, because thou mayest be guilty, and because I choose thou shouldest be guilty."

Torture is used to make the criminal discover his accomplices; but if it has demonstrated that it is not a proper means of discovering truth, how can it serve to discover the accomplices, which is one of the truths required? Will not the man who accuses himself, yet more readily accuse others? Besides, is it just to torment one man for the crime of another? May not the accomplices be found out by the examination of the witnesses, or of the criminal, from the evidence, or from the nature of the crime itself? In short, by all the means that have been used to prove the guilt of the prisoner? The accomplices commonly fly when their comrade is taken.*

All mankind, being exposed to the attempts of violence or perfidy, detest the crimes of which they may possibly be the victims; all desire that the principal offender may be punished; yet there is a natural compassion in the human heart, which makes all men detest the infliction of torture to extort confession. The law has not condemned them, and yet, though uncertain of their crime, you inflict a punishment more horrible than that which they are to suffer when their guilt is confirmed. "Possibly thou mayest be innocent; but I will torture thee that I may be satisfied: not that I intend to make thee any recompense for the thousand deaths which I will make thee suffer, in lieu of that which is preparing for thee." Who does not shudder at the idea? St. Augustin opposed such cruelty; the Romans tortured their slaves only; and Quintilian, recollecting that they were men, reproved the Romans for such want of humanity.

If there were but one nation in the world which had abolished the use of torture—if in that nation crimes were no more frequent than in others—and if that nation be more enlightened and more flourishing since the abolition—its example, surely, were sufficient for the rest of the world. England alone might instruct all other nations in this particular; but England is not the only nation. Tor-

* Beccaria.

ture hath been abolished in other countries, and with success: the question, therefore, is decided. Shall not a people, who pique themselves on their politeness, pride themselves also on their humanity? Shall they obstinately persist in their inhumanity, merely because it is an ancient custom? Reserve, at least, such cruelty for the punishment of those hardened wretches who shall have assassinated the father of a family, or the father of his country; but that a young person, who commits a fault which leaves no traces behind it, should suffer equally with a parricide, is not this a useless piece of barbarity?*

Nathaniel Hawes was the son of an opulent Norfolk grazier, and born in the year 1701. But being early left an orphan, a relative in Hertfordshire took care of his education. He was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with bad characters, he robbed his master, was tried at the Old Bailey, convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, and sentenced to seven years transportation. This sentence, however, was not executed, in consequence of the following circumstance:—When Hawes was apprehended, he impeached a man named Phillips, who had encouraged him in his depredations, by purchasing the stolen goods. A search-warrant was procured, and some of the property of Hawes's master found in Phillips's possession. A free pardon was granted to Hawes, in order that he might give evidence against Phillips, who was convicted as the receiver, and transported for fourteen years. Hawes had, however, become connected in Newgate with some of the gang of Jonathan Wild, particularly one John James. After committing a number of robberies, they quarrelled about the division of their booty; and, in consequence, they separated. Hawes being now apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild; in consequence James was apprehended, convicted, and executed. Notwithstanding this conviction, the court sentenced Hawes to be imprisoned in the New Prison; which prison was preferred,

* Voltaire.

as the prisoners in Newgate had threatened to murder him, for giving evidence against James. Soon after this commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and were engaged in a number of robberies ; but Hawes, in an attempt to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, was suddenly overpowered ; and the gentleman, having made himself master of his pistol, with the assistance of a driver of a cart, who opportunely came up, succeeded in apprehending him. When brought to the bar he refused to plead, alleging, that he would die as he had lived, like a gentleman. "The people who apprehended me," said he, "seized a suit of fine clothes, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in ; and unless they are returned, I shall not plead, for no one shall say I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat." On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority ; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death : whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about seven minutes ; but, unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated he might be conducted back to the court, which, being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty ;" but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction his behaviour was very improper. He told the other capital convicts he would die like a hero, and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution ; after which his conduct was not altogether so imprudent. He owned to the ordinary of Newgate, that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment, that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine clothes. He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed ; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's servant who was then in custody ;

today; but he did not discover any signs of contrition for this or any other of his offences.

CATHERINE JONES,

TRIED FOR BIGAMY.

CATHERINE JONES was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of September, 1719, for marrying Constantine Boone, during the life of her former husband, John Rowland.

Proof was made that she was married to Rowland in the year 1713, at a house in the Mint, Southwark; and that, six years afterwards, while her husband was abroad, she was again married, in the same house, to Constantine Boone; but Rowland, returning to England, caused his wife to be indicted for this crime.

The prisoner did not hesitate to acknowledge the double marriage, but insisted that the latter was illegal, as Boone was an hermaphrodite, and had been shown as such at Southwark and Bartholomew fairs, and at other places.

To prove this, a person swore that he knew Boone when a child, that his (or *her*) mother dressed *it* in girl's apparel, and caused it to be instructed in needle-work, till it had attained the age of twelve years, when it *turned man, and went to sea*.

These last words were those of the deposition; and the fact was confirmed by Boone, who appeared in Court, acknowledged being an hermaphrodite, and having been publicly shown in that character.

Other witnesses deposed, that the female sex prevailed over that of the male in the party in question; on which the jury acquitted the prisoner.

It is impossible to describe how much this affair was the subject of public conversation at, and long after, the time that it happened; and it would be idle to make any serious remarks on it. We can only express our astonishment, that an hermaphrodite should think of such a glaring absurdity as the taking a wife!

WILLIAM BURRIDGE,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MARCH 22, 1722, FOR HORSE-STEALING,

WAS born in Northamptonshire, and served his apprenticeship with a carpenter; but being of a wild disposition, his friends determined on sending him to sea; accordingly they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain: but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith. When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him: but this time never arrived; for, finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild,* of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves. BurrIDGE being confined in New Prison for a capital offence, broke out of that jail; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild, when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumstance, BurrIDGE fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support; but the gentleman who lost the horse, having sent a full description of it to London, BurrIDGE was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery stable.—Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him, by which he got off; but being immediately pursued, he was apprehended in May Fair, and lodged in

* The particulars of the life and execution of this most notorious thief and thief-taker will be found in the subsequent pages.

Newgate. On his trial, a man and a woman swore, that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury. The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty; and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances. He suffered in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty and virtue, and finally terminated in his ruin.

ARUNDEL COOKE, Esq. and JOHN WOODBURNE,

EXECUTED AT BURY ST. EDMUND'S, APRIL 5, 1722, FOR CUTTING AND
MAIMING MR. CRISP.

PREVIOUSLY to the passing of the act of parliament, known by the name of the Coventry act, the circumstances which gave rise to the enactment of which will be hereafter explained, it was customary for revengeful men to waylay another, and cut and maim him, so that though he did not die of such wounds, he might remain a cripple during the remainder of life, and such case was not then a capital offence. It was also a dangerous practice resorted to by thieves, who would often cut the sinews of men's legs, called hamstringing, in order to prevent their escape from being robbed.

Sir John Coventry having, in the reign of Charles the Second, opposed the measures of the court in the House of Commons, in revenge some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent Garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained, that "Unlawfully cutting out, or disabling, the tongue, of malice afore-thought, or by lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the nose
or

or lip, or cutting off or disabling any limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy."* By this law it is likewise enacted, that "accessaries shall likewise be deemed as principals."

Mr. Cooke was born at Bury St. Edmund's, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune; and when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the Temple to study the law; after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place. Mr. Crisp being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband. It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will, before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who, wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law; though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms. However, he at length grew so impatient, that he could not come into possession by the death of Mr. Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpose he engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan; for which piece of service he promised to give him a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but, reflecting on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, he was tempted to comply. It was agreed, the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the

* There was a similar act in Ireland, called "The Chalking Act," on which one Lamb, a butcher, was the first who suffered. EDITOR.

tomb-stones, till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle. Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law ; but declining to stay supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who, giving the signal that had been agreed between them, Woodburne quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner, in which he was abetted by the counsellor.

Imagining they had despatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home ; but he had not arrived more than a quarter of an hour, before Mr. Crisp knocked at the door, and entered, covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon. At the end of about a week he was so much mended, as to be removed to his own house. He had no doubt but Cooke was one of the persons who had assaulted him ; but resolved not to speak of the affair, till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened. The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion ; when, making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, and both convicted.

When they were called upon to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard ; and the court complying with his request, he urged that " judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the act of parliament simply mentions an intention to maim or deface, whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder." He quoted several law cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cause. The counsel for the crown opposed the arguments of Cooke ; insisted that the crime came within
the

the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord Chief Justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, consistently with his own oath as a judge; "for," said he, "it would establish a principle in the law, inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason, as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that the judgment must be arrested, because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance," said he, "judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed." His lordship said, that "Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment; it is, therefore, to be taken for granted, that the intention was to maim and deface; wherefore the court will proceed to give judgment:"—and, accordingly, sentence of death was passed upon Cooke and his accomplice.

After condemnation, the former employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon for his offence; and when he found his expectations fail him, he grew morose and reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was all penitence and contrition, sincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable situation in which he left his poor children.

A short time before the day of execution, Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and the sheriff, forgetful that punishment is resorted to not from motives of retribution, but as a means of deterring from the commission of crime, consented that execution should take place at four o'clock in the morning. Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day. The latter, as became one in his awful situation, behaved with every sign of penitence; but Cooke's conduct was excessively unfeeling, and he absolutely refused to confess his crime. He died as he had lived.

JOHN

JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 4, 1722.

THESE offenders were tried for stopping a journeyman tailor, in the fields near Harrow, and robbing him of two-pence and his clothes; and, because he had no more money, they beat him most inhumanly, stripped, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation, some persons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouse, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his clothes, and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who, going next day into a public-house in Fore-street, saw the fellows offering to sell the tailor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser, gave earnest for it, and, pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, who knowing the footpads, they were taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain and conclusive, that the jury could not hesitate to find them both guilty, and accordingly sentence of death was passed on them.

After conviction, their behaviour was by no means becoming persons in their awful situation; that of Reeves, in particular, was extremely hardened. He would sing and swear while the other convicts were at prayers; yet he told the ordinary he was certain of going to heaven.

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders, was the singular method that Hartley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St. James's and present a petition in his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission; when they delivered their petition, and told the king, that if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would cast lots which should be his wife. But his majesty said that he was

more deserving of the gallows than a wife ; and, accordingly, refused their request.

As they were going to execution, the ordinary asked Reeves, if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies. "No," said he, "she is a worthy woman, whose first husband happening to be hanged, I married her, that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues."

At the fatal tree, Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner, affected to despise death, and said, he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

JOHN HAWKINS and JAMES SIMPSON,

HIGHWAYMEN AND MAIL ROBBERS, EXECUTED AT TYBURN ON THE 21st
OF MAY, 1722.

JOHN Hawkins was born of poor but honest parents, at Staines, in Middlesex, and for some time lived as waiter at the Red Lion, at Brentford ; but leaving this place, he engaged himself as a gentleman's servant. Having been in different families, at length he became butler to Sir Dennis Drury, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. His person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate ; and, as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief, for which reason he was discharged, without the advantage of a good character. Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach ; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, and lost it all. He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen :

waymen : but the same fate still attended him ; he lost by gaming what he had acquired at so much risk, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and sneak off without paying his reckoning.

Several of his old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery, but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-table. These associates having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence. After which Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law ; but having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains ; one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon depressed the gang, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn ; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time ; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, and shot one of his servants too, who died on the spot. His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond-lane, from whom he took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to Jonathan Wild ; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds.

On his return to England he joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered sixty pounds reward to Wild ; but Hawkins's gang having no connection with that villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expense. They next stopped Mr. Hyde, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of ten pounds and his watch, but missed three hundred pounds which the gentleman

had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Wostmoreland's coach, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch, but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland ; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connexion, caused some of the gang to be apprehended, on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves. On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian Library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery ; and one hundred pounds reward was offered to discover the offender, when a poor tailor, having been taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped, because he was of whiggish principles. Hawkins and his friend returning to London, the latter coming of age at the time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for three hundred and fifty pounds, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table. The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot, on the Hampstead-road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery, they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde Park ; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape. This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices. While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with one George Simpson, another associate, who was a native of Putney, in Surrey. His father was a wine-merchant ;
but

but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places, till he became acquainted with Hawkins. Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey? Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but, on his arrival, he found that the story of the impeachment was false. When in London they formed connexions with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London-wall, the master of which kept a livery-stable; so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery-stable. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to avenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime. Having mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, he advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined to rob the Bristol mail, and they set out on an expedition for that purpose. It appeared on the trial, that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley Broom, where a person rode up to them, and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook, they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulled their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, when they ordered them to quit their horses; and

and then Hawkins, Simpson, and Wilson, tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge. They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surrey, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure. The landlord being well acquainted with their persons, and knowing the profusion of his guests, shewed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings, in Green-Arbour-Court, in the Old Bailey. A few days after this, information was given at the post-office, that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London-wall; accordingly some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happened to be there at the time, and suspected their business; on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye-alleys, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people. He had not been long in the house, before a Quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood for the men who had robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back door, went to Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own; and he concluded that he was far more unhappy, through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects. Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in his resolution, upon being told by a person who wished his safety, that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This

friend

friend likewise advised him to go to the post-office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting, that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would; as he had asked some questions, which seemed to intimate such a design. Wilson neglected this advice, but held his resolution of going to Newcastle, and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's. They turned and followed him; yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the post-office. On his first examination, he refused to make any confession; and on the following day he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place, the Post-Master-General promised that he should be admitted an evidence, if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, shewed him a letter without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:—

“Sir—I am one of those persons who robbed the mail, which I am sorry for; and, to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward of his pardon.”

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's handwriting, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, and, in consequence, his associates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate. On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house that night.

To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse-hire. The judge, desiring to look at the receipt, observed, that

that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked, that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit. After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by the following singular occurrence, as stated by the shorthand writer.

“ My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that, according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black. Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt, a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequences, I let him take the book out of my hand; when, presently, shewing it to his friend, “ See here,” said he, “ what difference there is in the colour of the same ink !” His friend took it, and shewed it to another. Uneasy at this, I spoke to them to return my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen, who just sat by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it, and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to the other, till the judges perceiving them very busy, called to them, ‘ Gentlemen, what are you doing? What book is that?’ They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. ‘ You ought not, gentlemen,’ says he, ‘ to take notice of any thing but what is produced in evidence;’ and then turning to me, demanded what I meant by shewing that to the jury? I answered, that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them.—His lordship then resumed his charge to the jury, which being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict.”

After

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink. Hereupon the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London, to contradict all of whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was submitted, whether Fuller's testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners. At the place of execution, Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude in a feeling manner, acknowledging his sins, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722, and were hung in chains on Hounslow-heath.

NATHANIEL JACKSON,

HIGHWAYMAN, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 18th OF JULY, 1722,

WAS a native of Doncaster, in Yorkshire, whose father dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation, who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years, and then ran away.

At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him, that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him, with the money left by his father. But Jackson being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland.—After a while, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge, which having

obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but soon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in such a horrid manner, that he was turned out of the regiment.

He then returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian, in Yorkshire. Being averse to a life of sobriety, he afterwards went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him.

Reduced to the utmost distress, he casually met John Murphy and Neal O'Brien, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together, O'Brien produced a considerable sum of money, saying, "You see how I live: I never want money: and if you have but courage, and dare walk with me towards Hampstead to-night, I'll shew you how easy it is to get it." As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprise. Between Tottenham-Court-Road and Hampstead, they stopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen-pence in money, and some other trifling articles, and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, got loose, and meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and Jackson were taken into custody, but O'Brien made his escape.

On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackson's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in such an affecting manner as to overwhelm his mind with the most poignant affliction. While under sentence of death, Jackson behaved in the most penitent manner; confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition; was earnest in his devotions,

devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722, having suffered for the first robbery he ever committed.

THOMAS BUTLOGE,

HANGED AT TYBURN, FOR ROBBING HIS MASTER, ON THE 18th OF JULY, 1722,

THIS offender was a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and, when of a proper age, was apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the house in which he lived not being of the most reputable kind, he became witness to such scenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's master having got considerably in debt, came to England, and resided some time at Chester, whither the apprentice was frequently sent with such remittances as the wife could spare.

At length Butloge quitted his service, and came to England, with a view to settle there; but being unsuccessful in his endeavours to procure an establishment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the service of a shopkeeper, whose daughter he soon afterwards married.

He had now a fair prospect of success before him, as his wife's father proposed to have resigned business in his favour; but being of an unsettled disposition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular pursuit of trade.

Unhappily for him, while he was amusing himself with the imagination of his future greatness, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and promising his interest to obtain him a place, on which he might live in a genteel manner. Butloge readily accepted this invitation, and immediately embarking for England, soon arrived in London.

He now took lodgings at the court end of the town, and living in a gay style, soon spent all the money he

had brought with him from Ireland; and his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the necessity of going to service, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langlie, a French gentleman.

He had not been long in his new place, when Mr. Langlie, going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau, in which he had deposited a sum of money; whereupon he went home, and found Butloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his cash, the other asked him if he missed any thing, and the master answered, one guinea, which Butloge said he had found by the side of the bureau; whereupon his master gave him two shillings, in approbation of this instance of his honesty.

Mr. Langlie went to Chelsea in the afternoon; and Butloge, taking advantage of his absence, broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and several other valuable effects, and then took a horse, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to Chester and set off on his way to Ireland.

When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he discovered the loss he had sustained; on which he applied to Lord Gage, who wrote to the postmaster of Chester to stop the delinquent; in consequence of which he was apprehended with the stolen goods in his possession, and sent to London to take his trial, which happened soon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received sentence of death, he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want to the commission of the crime which had brought him into such deplorable circumstances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal instigation; and he was encouraged by the consideration, that Mr. Langlie would soon return to France, so that there would be no person to prosecute him. He submitted to his unhappy lot with resignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not so much terrify him, as the reflection of the disgrace that he had brought on his family.

The

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722, along with Nathaniel Jackson.

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 24th OF SEPTEMBER, 1722, FOR
INHUMANLY KILLING HIS WIFE.

THIS offender served his time to a cloth-drawer, in Blackfriars, named Beech, who dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left his business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain.

After the death of this wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the elder of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever so violent that it distracted him, so that he was tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried newspapers, and did any other business he could to support his family.

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper. To which he answered, "Bread and cheese; can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No, I want a bit of meat." "But," said he, "I have no money to buy you any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day;" and some farther words arising between them, he stabbed her under her left breast with a knife.

The deed was no sooner perpetrated, than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for, found that the wound was mortal, and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim, the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber, at Shadwell; whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in consequence

quence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated; that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions; and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife, and received an accidental wound.

However, the evidence against him was so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death. After conviction he became serious and resigned; and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal: never be in a passion, but curb your anger, and honour your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewell, my dear child; pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution, the daughter above-mentioned was permitted to go into the cart, to take her last farewell of him, a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators.

As some reports, very unfavourable to this malefactor, had been propagated during his confinement, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following speech just before he was launched into eternity.

"I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning; I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife; and after much difficulty won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children, half of them dead; and, I believe, we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

"Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which, the scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done when I cut her scull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday.

"Good

“ Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out, that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest daughter. I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was a man or woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her, sometimes given her a cake or a pie, when she did any particular service, beyond what came to her share; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less have a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated like me, the women will make surmises be certainties.

“ Good Christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for though my sins are great, God’s mercies are greater.”

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

MARGARET FISHER,

PICKPOCKET, WHO RECEIVED SENTENCE OF DEATH, BUT WAS AFTERWARDS
PARDONED.

THIS trial contains nothing peculiar in the case itself, of sufficient importance to be allotted a place in these volumes; but as it presents an extraordinary specimen of the Scotch dialect, which those far removed from the northern extremity of Britain will deem a curiosity: we have not only inserted it, but added a genuine Scotch bellman’s oration, with a faithful translation of it into the English language.

At the sessions of the Old Bailey, in September, 1722, Margaret Fisher was tried for privately stealing thirteen guineas from the person of Daniel Mac Donald, who gave the following evidence, with true Scotch pronunciation and gesticulation.

“ And leek yer loardship, I had just taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn alang King-strate in Wesmanster, when I mat wi’ this fow quean at the bare, and she speird where I was gawn; I taud her hame. She said gen I wad ga wi’ hur tull Joanny Davis’s hoose, she wad gi’ me drame, sir, for, in troth, she tuck me for poor gawkey, boss-headed chiel, and leek yer loardship.

Sa

Sa she tuck had o' my haind, and lad me a gat I kenna reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gerd me as bung as a swobe, and leek yer hoanour. I staid there wi' her a pratty while; and thane, sir, I put my haind in tull my breeks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning; but the deel a bawbie could I find, for it was aw tint. And when I speird about it, they glowred, and taud me, gen I wanna' tak myself awa', they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to me; and sa, sir, they dang me fu' sair, and turned me oot at the back door, intull the strate, and I rambled aboot, and cou' na' find the hoose agen; and the watchmen mat wi' me, and carried me untill the roond hoose. And there I taud 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neist moorning I gade and foond oot Joanny Davis's hoose, but she was ran awa' and the prasoner too. But at neet, about saven a cloke, I mat wi' this impudent betch at the bare, and tuck her up. I ken well enough that she must ha' my goud, for na soul also wi' me but Joanny Davis, wha brote what we cawd for. Let her denee it an she can. Somebody (but I kenna' wha it was) offered me sax guineas in my haind to make the matter up, but I wanna tack it."*

In

* In addition to this genuine specimen of the Scotch dialect, we present the reader with the oration of a common crier, or bellman, of a town in North Britain; and which, without the smallest variation, is used, in similar language, to the present day:

O yes! and that's e'e time.

O yes! and that's twa times.

O yes! and that's the theerd and last time.

This is to let you to wat, that there is streayed fra this muckle toon of Langholm, a twa yere auld callant. He had on a leathern jerkin, with twa muckle pouches, t'ane filled we' chuckle-stanes, and toother we' his vather's jackalegs. His cawarms are barked wee bubble. There is a muckle scab in the how o' his neck, with a callekeal bleade on't. Wha sa brings the callant unto his breethren, shall ha' the blessing o' th' Kirk, and the preers o' his parents, Malcolm and Janny Mac Dooneld. And I wad that he was spied, that I Jemmy Fergusson may get a groat for cawing. So God bless the king, and the muckle lord of Relton; and noo I'll haam to my dinner.

As, however, some of our southern readers may be as much puzzled as though we laid a Latin quotation before them, without a translation, which the pedant will not deign to give, we shall endeavour to put

Jemmy

In her defence the prisoner alleged, that meeting with a coachman and the prosecutor, the former asked her to drink; on which they went to the house of Mrs. Davies; but that she sat on the opposite side of the room that the prosecutor did, and had not robbed him; and that nothing was found upon her when she was searched. The jury, not believing her allegations, and the prisoner having no person to appear in behalf of her character, she was found guilty, and received sentence of death. Having, however, pleaded pregnancy, which was confirmed by a jury of matrons, she was afterwards pardoned.

*ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN,
and THOMAS MILKSOP,*

MURDERERS, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, SEPTEMBER 24, 1722.

THESE offenders were tried for a murder, which arose from the following circumstance:—

Having agreed to commit a robbery together, they stopped a gentleman's coach on the road to Kensington, and, having robbed him of a sum of money, ran off; and soon afterwards meeting a Chelsea pensioner, who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it; but the man refusing to do it, Wilkinson stabbed him repeatedly through the back with a hanger; and when they saw the man was dead, they hastily decamped, committed some

Jemmy Ferguson's speech into English, which might puzzle some of the sage men of our universities.

O yes! this is the first time.

O yes! this is the second time.

O yes! this is the third and last time.

This is to give notice, that a boy of two years old has strayed from this great town of Langholm. He wore a leather jacket, with two large pockets, one of them filled with pebbles, and in the other was his father's pocket-knife. His left arm is besmeared with snot. There is a great scab in the pit of his neck, with a cabbage-leaf upon it. Whoever will bring the boy to his brother's, shall have the blessing of the church and the prayers of his parents, Malcolm and Jenny MacDonald; and I wish he was found, that I, James Ferguson, might get fourpence for calling. So God bless the king and the great lord of Relton; and now I will go home to my dinner.

robberies on coaches on the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to prison; and being soon afterwards brought to their trial, at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

It will be now proper to give such an account of these offenders as we have been able to collect. Robert Wilkinson was the son of poor parents, in St. Giles's, and, having missed the advantages of education, became an associate of coachmen, carmen, and others, the lowest of the people. At length he grew to be a dexterous boxer, and frequented Hockley-in-the-Hole, and other black-guard places in the neighbourhood of London.

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumstances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to strip them naked, bind them to trees, and leave them in that calamitous situation.

He continued this way of life alone for some years, and then connected himself with the other villains, whose names are mentioned in this narrative.

James Lincoln was likewise born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinson's. For some time he served the hackney-coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immense number of footpad robberies on the roads near London; and so frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honest men were afraid to pass alone about their lawful business.

He had been so successful in his adventures, and had so often escaped detection, that he grew so hardened, as to watch four nights at the end of Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, to rob the Duke of Newcastle of his George, though he knew that his Grace had always a number of servants in his train.

Being disappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde Park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all pursuit. The money he acquired by his robberies,

robberies was spent in the most extravagant manner; and, at length, he became acquainted with the other subjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

Thomas Milksop was a native of London, and was bound apprentice to a vintner, in which station he became familiar to some scenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he attached himself to some abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of housebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberless depredations on the public.

Milksop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a considerable sum of money, bought a horse, and rode out in the character of a highwayman; but not meeting any success in this way, he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinson and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, besides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of these malefactors, under sentence of death, was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinson, that the Ordinary of Newgate refused to administer the sacrament to him; on which he said, if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others, he would find the way alone. Lincoln professed himself a Roman Catholic; and Milksop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman, whom he robbed near Caen-wood.

***RICHARD OAKEY, JOHN LEVEE, and
MATTHEW FLOOD,***

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEBRUARY 23, 1723, FOR ROBBERY.

AT this time London and its environs were infested with desperate gangs of villains, of which a felon of the name of Blake was the Macheath; and in which character he was

known as Captain Blueskin. In a few pages, we shall give the particulars of this depredator, who, on the present occasion, owed his escape alone to his baseness in impeaching his associates in villainy.

Oakey, Levey, and Flood, three of this gang, were of the meanest origin, the first being apprenticed to a tailor, from whom he soon ran away. The other two were miserable, ignorant, yet dangerous wretches, and from childhood were pickpockets. With such as these Oakey associated himself, and for some time procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets; and who afterwards proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women. In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the woman's heels, while the other cut off the pocket: and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.—Many of Oakey's associates belonged to Jonathan Wild's gang, who caused several of them to be hanged, when he could make no further advantage of them. Having thus lost his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery. In their excursions through the streets, the woman went a little before Oakey, and when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over;" and, in the interim, Oakey was certain to cut off her pocket. But this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman soon after died, in consequence of some bruises she received from a fellow she had ill-treated; and, on her death, Oakey followed the practice of snatching off pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dexterous in his profession. Not long after this he became acquainted with several housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than stealing of pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of callimancoes; for which offence Oakey was apprehended; on which he impeached his

his accomplices, one of whom was hanged and the other transported, on his evidence. Deterred from the thoughts of house-breaking by this adventure, he returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor, when their plan of robbing was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him; and then Oakey used to decamp with their clothes. However, these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled and parted; and Oakey, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang; among whom were John Levee, Matthew Flood, and Blueskin. These men were for some time the terror of travellers near London. Among other atrocious robberies, they stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, as the lady was with child. Blueskin, holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it, which appeared to be a considerable sum, but, on examination, it was found to chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves; but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learned there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this, Oakey, Levee, Flood, and Blueskin, stopped Colonel Cope and Mr. Young, in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead, and robbed them of their watches, rings, and money. Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution. After conviction, their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation. Oakey said, that what gave him more concern than all his other offences, was the burning a will that he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut from a lady's side; a circumstance which proved highly detrimental to the owner.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM SPIGGOT & THOMAS PHILLIPS,*Who suffered the torture for refusing to plead.*

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEBRUARY 3, 1723, FOR ROBBERY.

WILLIAM Spiggot and Thomas Phillips were indicted at the Old Bailey, for committing several robberies on the highway ; but they refused to plead, unless the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned : but this being contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th of King William and Queen Mary, entitled, “An act for encouraging the apprehending of highwaymen,” the court informed them that their demand could not be complied with.

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure : on which the court ordered, that the judgment ordained by law in such cases should be read, which is to the following purpose :—

“That the prisoner should be sent to the prison from whence he came, and put into a mean room, stopped from the light, and shall there be laid on the bare ground, without any litter, straw, or other covering, or without any garment about him, except something to hide his privy members. He shall lie upon his back, his head shall be covered, and his feet shall be bare. One of his arms shall be drawn with a cord to one side of the room, and the other arm to the other side ; and his legs shall be served in the like manner. Then there shall be laid upon his body as much iron or stone as he can bear, and more. And the first day after, he shall have three morsels of barley bread, without any drink ; and the second day he shall be allowed to drink as much as he can at three times, of the water that is next the prison-door, except running water ; without any bread ; and this shall be his diet till he dies ; and he, against whom this judgment shall be given, forfeits his goods to the king.”*

* This act becoming barbarous to Englishmen, in 1722, it was determined that persons refusing to plead shall be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury : an alteration that does honour to modern times.

The reading of this sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death; but when they came into the press-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead, a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him: but Spiggot was put under the press, where he continued half an hour, with three hundred and fifty pounds weight on his body; but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence hereof they were again brought back, and again indicted, when the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, received sentence of death, and were executed along with Oakey, Levee, and Flood.

William Spiggot, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinet-maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald, on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the evidence of Joseph Linsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs, a lunatic, who had escaped from Bedlam, was likewise concerned with them, but afterwards publicly spoke of the affair, which occasioned their being taken into custody; and when it was known that Burroughs was disordered in his mind, he was sent back to Bedlam.

Thomas Phillips, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Bristol, totally uneducated, and being sent to sea when very young, he served under Lord Torrington,* when he attacked and took the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Linsey, in company with whom he committed a great number of robberies on the highway. Phillips once boasted that he and Spiggot robbed above an hundred passengers one night, whom they obliged to come

* The unfortunate Admiral Byng, whose case will be given in due order of time in this work, was the son of this gallant nobleman.

out of different wagons, and having bound them, placed them by each other on the side of the road: but this story is too absurd to be believed.

While under sentence of death, Phillips behaved in the most hardened and abandoned manner: he paid no regard to any thing that the minister said to him, and swore or sung songs while the other prisoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and, towards the close of his life, when his companions became more serious, he grew still more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution, he said, "he did not fear to die, for he was in no doubt of going to heaven."

CHRISTOPHER LAYER, Esq.

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MARCH 15, 1723, FOR HIGH TREASON.

HERE we again find a hidden spark in the hot-bed of rebellion, shooting out of its expiring embers. This man, like all rebels, was a mere enthusiast, plotting deep mischief; but, like Colonel Despard, hereafter named, without a shadow of possibility to carry his wickedness into effect.

Mr. Layer was born of very respectable parents, and received a very liberal education, which being completed at the University, he was entered a student of the honourable society of the Inner Temple. After the customary time, he was called to the bar, entered on the profession of a counsellor at law, and had so much practice, that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life, for his treasonable practices; and about this period several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom Counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished.

This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he held several conferences with the Pretender, to whom
he

he promised that he would effect no secret revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprised of the scheme till it had actually taken place.

Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an assassin to murder the king, on his return from Kensington; and this being done, the other parties, engaged in the plot, were to seize the guards; and the Prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of state, were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this strange scheme was lord Grey, an ancient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower, before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place.

Mr. Layer having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy. The counsellor met these soldiers at a public-house at Stratford, in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public-house having overheard the conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Layer was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers, in consequence of a warrant from the secretary of state.

At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton-buildings, and the other in Queen-street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women were searched, when such a number of treasonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprised that his papers were seized, and the women bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him that he would make a discovery of all he knew,

if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink, and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery; but it will appear that he had no such intention.

Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined, there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public-house adjoining, and Mr. Laver thought, if he could get from his confinement it would be no difficult matter to escape through the tap-room of the ale-house, where it was not probable that he should be known.

Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the dusk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he overset it, and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but Laver escaped during the confusion occasioned by this accident.

Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and finding that he had taken a boat at the Horse-ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St. George's-fields, and caught him at Newington-Butts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

The King and council determined that no time should be lost in bringing Laver to a trial; and a writ was forthwith issued from the Crown-office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to inquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner: in consequence of which the jury met at Rumford, and found a bill against him for high treason, which was returnable into the Court of King's Bench.

Soon after the bill was found, the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, Lord Chief Justice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Laver had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstance

cumstance with the counsel for the crown, during a trial that lasted sixteen hours ; but, at length, the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his counsel made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him ; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by the law was passed on him.

As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned ; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being sufferers by his affairs being left in a state of confusion.

After conviction, Mr. Layer was committed to the Tower, and, at length, the sheriffs of London and Middlesex received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law ; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black, full trimmed, and a tye wig.

At the place of execution, he was assisted in his devotions by a non-juring clergyman ; and when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed king James (so he called the pretender) his lawful sovereign. He said that king George was an usurper, and damnation would be the fate of those who supported his government. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored ; and, therefore, advised the people to take up arms in his behalf : he professed himself willing to die for the cause ; and expressed great hopes that Providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon.

After he was hanged, his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-bar.

WILLIAM BURK,

ROBBER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, ON THE 8TH OF APRIL, 1723.

THE subject of this biography, though born of parents so poor that they were glad to get him into a charity school, yet had a fair chance of becoming an useful member of society. Little doubt can be entertained but that the fault of mothers, by a too great and too long indulgence to their children, which they call kindness, was the primary cause which led this man to his wretched fate. Some unreflecting women, by mistimed fondness, would have their children, while they should be in search of an honest livelihood, still at home: or, to use the vulgar expression, "still within the length of their apron strings." It is rare, indeed, to find a great boy, pampered by the mother, possessing the rare qualities of a good boy. Indulgence to a youth at home unnerves him when abroad, and, subject to no controul, he becomes insolent, weak, and contemptible to strangers.

William Burk was born in the parish of St. Catherine's, near the Tower of London. His temper, it was alleged, was bad when a boy; but which of us are not daily wayward until precept and correction teach us better; but it was also admitted that the mother, by ill-judged fondness and indulgence, made it much worse.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water-side, enquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return, but in vain: for the youth was obstinately bent on a sea-faring life.

In about a fortnight, the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met
with

with another galleon, which they took without the loss of a man ; but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds prize-money on these captures ; but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica, there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, but, having married a planter, who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it, as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress ; but she who had been herself a thief, soon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon, which was granted ; but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed at the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and, with that view, shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape of being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates.

On the return of his ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each man for the whole day, being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls ; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However they reached the port in safety ; and, notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain
resolved

resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves they set sail for the West India islands; but, during the voyage, the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship; and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them, in consequence of which, they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings, from the extremity of the cold, and other circumstances, were so severe, that, on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney; but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer, on the highway; and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and, being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him, to terrify the persons he stopped; and one old man hesitating to comply with his demand, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes; received the sacrament with great devotion; and declared, that if he obtained mercy from God, it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of April, 1723, in the 23d year of his age.

Happy the child whose younger years
Receive instruction well;
Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
The road that leads to hell.

When

When we devote our youth to God,
 'Tis pleasing in his eyes ;
 A flow'r, when offer'd in the bud,
 Is no vain sacrifice.

'Tis easier work, if we begin
 To fear the Lord betimes ;
 While sinners that grow old in sin,
 Are harden'd in their crimes.

DR. WATTS.

ALEXANDER DAY,

(*Alias Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.*)

SHARPER.

THE mode of plunder practised by this villain at the time of committing his depredations were not common ; but at present, unfortunately, the great metropolis of our country abounds with such insidious robbers. This kind of thieving, in modern times, is y'clep'd SWINDLING,* and the latter part of our pages will adduce instances of the tricks of sharpers, passing almost credibility. The fellow now before us was, however, circumstances considered, an adept, and, like our modern swindlers, had a fictitious name, an accomplice, sometimes acting as his footman, a hired house and borrowed carriage.

The great qualifications, or leading and indispensable attributes, of a sharper or swindler, are, to possess a genteel exterior, a demeanour apparently artless, and a good address.

Among the various classes of sharpers, may be reckoned those who obtain licences to become pawnbrokers, and bring disgrace upon the reputable part of the trade, by every species of fraud which can add to the distresses of those who are compelled to raise money in this way ; for which purpose there are abundance of opportunities. Swindling pawnbrokers of this class are uniformly receivers of stolen goods ; and, under the cover of their licence, do much mischief to the public. The evil arising from them might, in a great measure, be prevented by placing the power of granting licences in a general board of police ; and rendering it necessary for all persons to

* This word is derived from the German, in which language it most forcibly conveys the idea of a man practising every species of deceit, to plunder the unwary

produce a certificate of character before they can obtain such licence, and also to enter into recognizance for good behaviour.

Also sharpers who obtain licences to be hawkers and pedlars; under the cover of which every species of villainy is practised upon the country people, as well as upon the unwary in the metropolis, and all the great towns in the kingdom. The artifices by which they succeed are various; as, for example—by fraudulent raffles, where plated goods are exhibited as silver, and where the chances are exceedingly against the adventurers; by selling and uttering base money, and frequently forged bank notes, which make one of the most profitable branches of their trade; by dealing in smuggled goods, thereby promoting the sale of articles injurious to the revenue, besides cheating the ignorant with regard to their value; by receiving stolen goods, to be disposed of in the country, by which discoveries are prevented, and assistance afforded to common thieves and stationary receivers; by purchasing stolen horses in one part of the country, and disposing of them in another, in the course of their journeys; in accomplishing which, so as to elude detection, they have great opportunities; by gambling with EO tables at fairs and horse-races.

A number of other devices might be pointed out, which render this class of men great nuisances in society; and show the necessity of either suppressing them totally, for in fact they are of little use to the public, or of limiting the licences only to men of good character; to be granted by a general board of police, under whose controul they should be placed, while they enter, at the same time, into a recognizance in a certain sum, with one surety for good behaviour; by which the honest part would be retained, to the exclusion of the fraudulent.

Also sharpers, known by the name of duffers, who go about from house to house, and attend public-houses, inns, and fairs, pretending to sell smuggled goods, such as India handkerchiefs, waistcoat patterns, muslins, &c. By offering their goods for sale, they are enabled to discover the proper objects, which may be successfully practised upon in various ways; and if they do not succeed in promoting

moting some gambling scheme, by which the party is plundered of his money, they seldom fail passing forged country bank notes, or base gold and silver, in the course of their dealings.

In London a number of female sharpers also infest public places. They dress elegantly, personate women of fashion, attend masquerades, and even go to St. James's. These, from their effrontery, actually get into the circle; where their wits and hands are employed in obtaining diamonds, and whatever other articles of value, capable of being concealed, are found to be most accessible.

The wife of a well-known sharper is said to have appeared at court some years since, dressed in a style of peculiar elegance; while the sharper himself is supposed to have gone in the dress of a clergyman. According to the information of a noted receiver, they pilfered to the value of 1700*l.* on the King's birth-day, 1795, without discovery or suspicion.

Houses are kept where female cheats dress and undress for public places. Thirty or forty of these sharpers generally attend all masquerades, in different characters, where they seldom fail to get clear off with a considerable booty.

The first deception which we find played off by Alexander Day, was to take an elegant house in Queen-square, and then to send his pretended footman to a livery stable to enquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself afterwards agreed to purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery clothes of a large size by him.

The man was accordingly recommended; but when the livery was tried on, Day observed, that, as they did not fit him, he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this object was obviated by the footman, who saying that the clothes would fit with a small alteration, the 'squire consented to hire the man.

When the stable-keeper saw the coachman he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new master; and being informed, to the Duke of Mon-

tague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied, though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer.

Mr. Day having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, gave orders to be driven to a coffee-house in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back-door, without paying for his wine, and said he would return in a few minutes.

The coachman waited a long time: but his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of such dangerous hands.

It seems that Day made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace-merchant, named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish point: but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the 'squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold lace to be sent to his house in Queen-square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his tailor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that if he had executed it, he must have been a loser to a very considerable amount, and the 'squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London: however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the person who should have paid it had decamped.

The next trick practised by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold watch, chain, and seals, worth 50*l*. Markham carried them home, and had the honour to drink tea with the supposed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the rest a chain of gold for his squirrel.

Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began

gan to suspect his new customer ; and waiting on the lady, enquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq. —She answered in the negative ; on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said, that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In-consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property.

On another occasion, Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen-draper, named Schrimshaw, agreed for linen to the amount of 48*l*. and ordered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered, but the purchaser had decamped when the linen-draper went with the second.

After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer, named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26*l*. The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before ; and told him to call the next morning, when he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the 'squire nor steward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a silk-mercier. Day, going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order. The mercier went, and saw a carriage at the door ; and being told that the 'squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servants took care to inform him that Mr. Davenport was the son of a baronet of Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county.

When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent, for him to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop.

Hereupon Day took the mercier in his coach, and on their way he talked of his father, Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank, and said he was on the point of marriage

marriage with the daughter of Counsellor Ward, and as he should be under the necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercer's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion ; for he told him that the ladies were the best judges of such articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance whom he could consult. He readily answered that he had, and mentioned a Lady Davenport as his relation, saying, "send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them."

Mr. Hinchcliffe said he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade, worth about thirty pounds ; but desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to Counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed squire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewise discovered, that our adventurer having casually met, at a coffee-house, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of Counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alleged, their coats of arms were the same.

After an extensive course of fraud, Day was taken into custody in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail, but it proved that he was not the man ; however, there were six indictments brought against him for various acts of fraudulency.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased on credit ; and he asserted that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200*l*. but no credit could be given to his allegations ; nor, even if he had possessed such an estate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honest principle.

After a long trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of 200*l*. and to give security

security for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should be expired.

SARAH PRIDDON,

CONVICTED OF AN ASSAULT IN WHICH MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

THERE is no state in human nature so wretched as that of the prostitute. Seduced, abandoned to fate, the unhappy female falls a prey to want ; or she must purchase existence at a price, degrading, in the last degree, to the mind of sensibility. Subject to the lust and debauchery of every thoughtless blockhead, she becomes hardened in shame. Hence modesty is put to the blush, by the obscenity of those, once pure as our own darling daughters. Every public place swarms with this miserable set of beings, so that parents dread to indulge their children with even the sight of a moral stage performance. The unhappy prostitute, heated by drink, acquires false spirits, in order to inveigle men to her purpose ; and in so doing, she too often takes apparent satisfaction in annoying, by looks and gestures, often by indecent words, the virtuous part of the audience. The law, while it assumes the guardianship of youth, by suppressing immorality, still permits these wantons to rove uncontrolled, among the virtuous as well as the profligate. There ought, in public at least, some bounds to be set—some check to the pernicious example. They may surely be restrained, at least, to the outward shew of decency, when in mixed company.

Yet, says the philanthropist, they demand our pity. They do indeed. The evil cannot, perhaps, be totally removed, but the legislature might do more to diminish it than has yet been attempted in this country. It is by some held a necessary evil, tending, in its utmost extent, even to the benefit of the yet virtuous female : but a mind once formed by precept and good example, will ever repel a liberty attempted by a profligate man. They are cowards when reproved by virtuous indignation.

We can only accord our tribute of pity to them, though
about

about to give the effects of prostitution in its greatest extent, by quoting the words of the poet, as applied to the miseries of the unhappy Jane Shore.

“ When she was mine, no care came ever nigh her ;
 I thought the gentlest breeze that wakes the spring
 Too rough to breathe upon her ; * *
 Now, sad and shelterless perhaps she lies,
 Where piercing winds blow sharp, and the chill rain
 Drops from some penthouse on her wretched head,
 Drenches her locks, and kills her with the cold.”

On the 24th of April, 1723, Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent assault on the Honourable J— F—, and stabbing him with a knife in his left breast, and giving him a wound of which he long languished, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Salisbury, (for that was the name by which she was best known,) was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom she wounded. It appeared on the trial, that Mr. F— having gone to the Three Tuns Tavern in Chandos-street, Covent-garden, about midnight, the prisoner followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F—, went to bed ; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Frontiniac for Mrs. Salisbury. This he did, and carried it to her with a French roll, and a knife. The prisoner was now in company and conversation with Mr. F—, and the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera-ticket, which he had presented to her sister ; and while they were talking she stabbed him ; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, “ Madam, you have wounded me.”

No sooner had she committed the act, than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done : she sent for a surgeon, who finding it necessary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, she seemed terrified, and calling out, “ O Lord ! what are you doing !” fainted away.

On her recovery, she asked Mr. F— how he did ; to which he answered, “ Very bad, and worse than you imagine.” She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and, after some time, the parties
 went

went away in separate chairs ; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and saluted her, as a token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with malice *pre-pense* ; and that what she did arose from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his giving an Operaticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counsel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard to her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F— had readily forgiven her at the time ; but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They said, that if the gentleman had died of the wound, she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime ; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury, having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding Mr. F— ; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In consequence hereof she was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be imprisoned for a year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years ; but when she had suffered about nine months imprisonment she died in Newgate, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Andrew, Holborn.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH,

MURDERER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JUNE 17, 1723.

“ Hard names at first, and threat'ning words,
That are but noisy breath,
May grow to clubs and naked swords,
To murder and to death.”

THIS criminal was born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable

creditable trade ; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge, and then entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time ; but not being content with his situation, he repaired to London, and again enlisted as a soldier in the foot-guards.

In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him, till an incident, which unexpectedly arose, occasioned the crime for which he suffered. Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark, that at the period of which we are writing party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was marching, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park, a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, " What a stir is here about King George's soldiers !" Hawksworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated thereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree, that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time the crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery ; and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a person who had been witness to what passed in the Park, went to the Savoy, and having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel
whom

whom he had served gave him an excellent character ; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve ; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hopes of life, and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted, in his own mind, of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed, he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions ; he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury, and if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompense their sufferings. He was aged 27.

Though nothing can justify the crime of which this man was guilty, yet a useful lesson may be learned from his fate. The situation of our common soldiers is sufficiently lamentable, and no person should seek to make their lives more calamitous by insult. The poor fellow who does duty by night and by day, who is subject to all the strictness of military discipline, and liable at any time to be called forth, the mark of a bullet, and all this for less than is sufficient for his support, is certainly an object of our commiseration. We should therefore pity the distressed, and not seek to add misfortune to the miserable.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned ; yet the eye of huma-

nity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike the fatal blow, little considering, at that moment, that it would have proved fatal.

Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion ; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our passions ; and that the higher considerations of religion ought to be perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind, which, in numerous instances besides the present, have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words or aggravating actions of another to tempt him to the commission of murder.

*THOMAS ATHOE, the Elder, and THOMAS
ATHOE, the Younger,*

(FATHER AND SON,)

MURDERERS, EXECUTED IN SURREY, ON THE 5th OF JULY, 1723.

THIS murder was attended with shocking barbarity ; and when we have to relate that it was committed by father and son, the relation becomes additionally painful. A solitary murder is sufficiently detestable ; but when it is proved that a parent advises, aids, and abets his child, in the horrid purpose, we are shocked at the extent of human depravity.

The elder Athoe was a native of Carew, in Pembroke-shire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such respectable way, that in the year 1721 he was chosen mayor of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same corporation, though they did not live in this place, but at Mannerbeer, two miles distant from it. George Merchant, (of whose murder they were convicted,) and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister. On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the Athoes went to sell
cattle,

cattle, and there met with George Merchant and his brother Thomas. A quarrel arose between the younger Athoe and George Merchant on an old grudge respecting their right to part of an estate, when a battle ensued, in which George had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, would have persuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied, "No, no, we won't take the law, but we'll pay them in their own coin." Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the Merchants left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, enquired of the ostler which way they went. He gave them the best information in his power; on which they immediately mounted and followed them. The brothers stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's Water, to let their horses drink. In the mean time they heard the footsteps of other horses behind them, and turning about, saw two men riding at a small distance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they presently heard the voice of old Athoe. Knowing that he had sworn revenge, and dreading the consequence that would probably ensue, they endeavoured to conceal themselves behind a bridge, but they were discovered by the splashing of their horses' feet in the water. The Athoes riding up with large sticks, the younger said to George Merchant, "I owe thee a pass, and now thou shalt have it;" and immediately knocked him off his horse. In the interim, old Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewise from his horse, calling out, at the same time, "Kill the dogs! kill the dogs!" The brothers begged hard for their lives, but they pleaded to those who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe seized Thomas Merchant in the tenderest part, and squeezed him in so violent a manner, that human nature could not long have sustained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a similar way, and carried his revenge to such a length, that it is not possible to relate the horrid deed with decency. When he had completed his execrable purpose, he called out to his father, saying, "Now I have done George Merchant's business." A great effusion of blood

was the consequence of this barbarity; but his savage revenge was not yet glutted; seizing G. Merchant by the nose with his teeth, he bit it off, and then strangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck. This done, the murderers quitted the spot; but some persons coming by, took the Merchants to an adjacent house, and sent for a surgeon, who dressed the wound of Thomas, but found that George was dead: the surgeon declared that the blows he had received were sufficient to have killed six or seven men; for he had two bruises on his breast, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back. The elder Athoe was taken into custody on the following day, but the son had fled to Ireland; however, those who had been concerned in favouring his escape, were glad to use their endeavours to get him back again. The murder was committed in Pembrokeshire, but the prisoners were removed by a writ of Habeas Corpus to Hereford, and on the 19th March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder. On the trial, the principal evidence against them was the surviving brother, who was even then so weak as to be indulged to sit down while he gave his evidence; but the jury, though satisfied of the commission of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the prisoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a special verdict; whereupon the case was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the prisoners being brought up to London, were committed to the King's Bench prison, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the court of King's Bench, in Westminster-hall; when a motion being made by counsel in arrest of judgment, the court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry VIII. should be read, in which is a clause, ordaining that "All murders and robberies committed in, on, or about the borders of Wales, shall be triable in any county of England where the criminal shall be taken; and that the court of King's Bench shall have power to move by writ of Habeas Corpus any prisoner confined in Wales, to the next county of England to be tried."

In

In consequence hereof, the Court proceeded to give judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King's Bench prison. Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life till the warrant came down for their execution, and endeavoured to extenuate the crime by a variety of frivolous pretences, respecting disputes between them and the deceased. On the 28th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death is thus recorded by the minister who attended them. "On Friday the 5th of July, 1723, about eleven o'clock in the morning, they were conveyed in a cart to the place of execution. When they came to the fatal tree, they behaved themselves in a very decent manner, embracing each other with the utmost tenderness and affection; and indeed the son's hiding his face, bedewed with tears, in his father's bosom, was, notwithstanding the barbarous action they had committed, a very moving spectacle. They begged of all good people to take warning by their ignominious death; and were turned off, crying, 'Lord have mercy upon us! Christ have mercy upon us!' The bodies were brought from the place of execution in two hearses, to the Falcon inn, in Southwark, in order to be buried in St. George's church-yard." They suffered at a place called St. Thomas's Watering, a little below Kent-street, in Surry, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the son within one day of twenty-four, at the time of their deaths.

CAPTAIN JOHN MASSEY,

EXECUTED AT EXECUTION-DOCK, JULY 26, 1723, FOR PIRACY.

(A VERY HARD CASE.)

IN transcribing the record and particulars of this truly unfortunate man, we had no conception that he would have appeared among those who suffered the extreme
sentence

sentence of the law. Indeed, we rather thought his conduct, making allowance for the critical way in which he was situated, meritorious, than really guilty; but when we found that he actually pleaded guilty to the charge laid against him in the indictment, we were left in wonder at the mysterious ways of Providence.

Captain Massey was the son of a gentleman of fortune, who gave him an excellent education. When young, though somewhat wild and wavering in his mind, yet we find no flagitious conduct imputed to him. He grew weary of home, and thirsted to taste the pleasures of a world in which he was doomed to act an unhappy part. His father procured him a commission in the army; he served with great credit as lieutenant, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of Queen Anne. On his return to England, he conducted himself with great decency, but became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached, that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broken off the connexion. After this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a dissolute manner, but at length got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building of a fort. The ship being ill supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great. Every officer on board died except Massey, and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect. Those who lived to get on shore drank so greedily of the fresh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in such a rapid manner, that only Captain Massey and a very few of his people were left alive. These, being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair; but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress; on which a boat was sent off to their relief. They were no sooner on board, than they found

found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, perhaps too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, or appeared so to do, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence, they took several prizes; and though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Massey had so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal consequences that might ensue. At length the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Massey seized the first opportunity of deserting, and, repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the pirate vessel were taken into custody, convicted, and hanged. Massey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect, on account of his services to the public, but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country. On his sailing for England, the governor gave him commendatory letters to the lords of the admiralty; but, astonishing as it may seem, instead of being caressed, he was taken into custody, and committed till a sessions of admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death. As his case was remarkable, the public entertained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned; however, a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate. Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkably fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny. Though the captain pleaded guilty at his trial, for guilty in some measure he was, yet his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice; added to which, his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proved that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to justice; a conduct by which he surely merited the thanks of his country, and not the vengeance of the law. We sincerely hope that no future king will, under such circumstances, sign a warrant for execution.

PHILIP ROCHE,

EXECUTED AT EXECUTION-DOCK, AUGUST 5, 1723, FOR PIRACY AND MURDER.

WE have already commented upon the foul crime of piracy. The account now to be given of this atrocious offender will shew to what a horrid pitch it has been carried; and happy should we feel ourselves if we could add, that this was a singular case. In latter years, we find that murder, foul as that committed by Roche, was practised on board one of our men of war, in which Captain Pigot, her commander, was barbarously killed; and the mutinous crew seized the frigate, and delivered her to the enemy.

This detested monster, Philip Roche, was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a sea-faring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman. Here he endeavoured to procure the place of a clerk to a factor; but failing in this, he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired for insuring ships, and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape Breton, he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who having an high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irishmen, who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued.

When they had been only a few days at sea, the plan was executed as follows: One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails, which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended on the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this instant a man
and

and a boy at the yard-arm, observing what passed, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least a present escape, descended to the main-deck, where Roche instantly seized, murdered, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarming the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered, as fast as they came on deck, and being first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter-deck, when Roche and his villanous companions seized them, and tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murders being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; and while the profligate crew were carousing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villany.

They had intended to have sailed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days' sail of the Bristol Channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name, they painted her afresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown, and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London; but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the river Thames, Mr. Annesley's friends made enquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied any knowledge of the gentleman, and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions, it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his

wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the Secretary of State for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche ; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shown him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche, that he might expect a pardon if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction ; but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial, and found Guilty : judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock, on the 5th of August, 1723, but was so ill at the time, that he could not make any public declaration of the abhorrence of the crime for which he suffered.

WILLIAM DUCE, JAMES BUTLER, — WADE, and — MEADS,

(A desperate and cruel gang of murderers and footpads,)

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, AUGUST 14, 1723.

THE reader has doubtless observed that this work shows that there are different grades of thieves. The boy, when abandoned to profligacy, commences his career by picking pockets, and a single handkerchief is then the extent of his hopes. Hardening with his years, he advances a step in villany, and becomes a footpad, the most cruel description of robbers. If success should, for a while, attend his enormities, he proceeds to steal a horse, and throwing away the footpad's bludgeon or knife, he appears mounted on the highway, armed with a brace of pistols. Arrived now at the highest rank of thievery, he despises the lower posts, and styles himself a gentleman highwayman. To do honour to his post, he scorns to use

use that violence where there is no show of resistance, which, as a footpad, he exercised often through mere wantonness. His fame, if industrious, however, sooner reaches the knowledge of the myrmidons of justice, than if he had grovelled as a foot-robber; and his career is happily thus sooner at an end.

Duce was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed some time in London; but being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connexions which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no sooner at large than he commenced footpad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelsea-fields, of four guineas; after this he connected himself with John Dyer and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; giving a signal for his accomplices to come up if any resistance should be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme, with four other villains, to rob Lady Chudleigh, between Hyde-Park-Corner and Kensington; but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; wherefore they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood, they stripped him.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester; but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

James Butler was the son of reputable parents, of the parish of St. Ann, Soho, and apprenticed to a silversmith;

but being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston, in New England, and went to New York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise ran away, and embarked in a third vessel bound to Martinique. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated Admiral Vernon.

On his return to England, he married a girl of Wapping, and having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang we have mentioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several other robberies.

These appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend, they stopped four gentlemen, who refusing to be robbed, Meads, one of those hanged at Winchester, shot a servant who attended them, in the breast, so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies, attended with circumstances of cruelty, but it will be now proper to mention those for which they suffered. Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester, he, Duce, and Dyer, immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes near Buckingham House, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney-coachman near Hampstead, and robbed him of nine shillings, after the coachman had told them that the words "stand and deliver," were sufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was more resigned and devout than could have been expected from men, whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts, and death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Protestant. The latter was urged by the ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices, but this he refused to do, because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended, gave him more pains than the thoughts of death; and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.

HUMPHRY ANGIER,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, SEPTEMBER 9, 1723, FOR ROBBERY,

WAS a native of Ireland, born near Dublin, but his parents removing to Cork, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Thus discharged, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and his father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age. Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent into Scotland to oppose the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished by receiving five hundred lashes, in consequence of the sentence

tence of a court martial. The rebellion ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce, (see DUCE,) whose sister he married at an alehouse in the verge of the Fleet. After this he enlisted a second time, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him. The greater part of the Spaniards having abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity. Angier now kept a house of ill fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, Meads told the following horrid tale: "We have been out, and the best fun of all was, an engagement with a smock-faced shoe-maker, whom we met on the Kentish road. We asked him how far he was going, and he said he was just married, and going home to see his relations. After a little more discourse, we persuaded him to turn rather out of the road to look for a bird's nest, which as soon as he had done, we bound and gagged him, after which we robbed him, and were going away; but I being in a merry humour, and wanting to have a little diversion, turned about with my pistol, and shot him through the head." Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them. After this he kept a house of ill fame near Charing-Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning, when, during his absence, an affair happened, which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the streets, conducted him to Angier's house, where he drank so freely that he fell asleep, and the woman robbing him of his watch and money, made her escape. The gentleman awaking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but was afterwards
discharged

discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him. Soon after his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but was fortunate enough to be acquitted for want of evidence. The following accident happened about the same time: A woman named Turner had drunk so much at Angier's house that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her, his wife entered in a rage, and demanding of her how she could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable. The officer no sooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her, on which they were taken into custody and committed; but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury. Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the master and the man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey, but acquitted, as the prosecutors could not swear to their persons. Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of any reputation would be seen in the house; and the expenses attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that he was compelled to decline business. After this, he kept a gin-shop in Short's-gardens, Drury-lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind as those he had formerly entertained, particularly parson Lindsey. Lindsey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery: they had again the good fortune to escape, the character of Lindsey being at this time so infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing he said. Soon after, however, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marshal,

marshal, near Hornsey, of ten guineas, and some silver, and the other for robbing a waggoner near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier. After conviction, he was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he said, "he was never guilty of such mean practices as picking of pockets, and all his associates were above it, except one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home to cover her deceased husband."

*RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOTT, ROBERT KINGSHELL,
HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, and
JAMES ANSELL,*

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, DECEMBER 4, 1723, FOR MURDER AND DEER
STEALING.

THIS was another gang of daring plunderers, who carried on their depredations with such effrontery, that it was found necessary to enact the law hereafter recited, in order to bring them to condign punishment; and it was not long after it was in force, before it took due effect upon them.

Having blacked their faces, they went in the day-time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the Bishop of Winchester's keeper, on Waltham Chase; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the substance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted: "Any person appearing in any forest, chase, park, &c. or in any high road, open heath, common, or down, with offensive weapons, and having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised, or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, killing, or stealing, any red or fallow deer, or unlawfully robbing any warren, &c. or stealing any fish out of any river, or pond, or (whether armed or disguised or not) break-
ing

“ing down the head or mound of any fish-pond, where-
“by the fish may be lost or destroyed; or unlawfully and
“maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding any cattle,
“or cutting down or otherwise destroying any trees plant-
“ed in any avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard,
“or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit; or set-
“ting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse, hovel, cock-
“mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or mali-
“ciously shooting at any person in any dwelling-house or
“other place; or knowingly sending any letter without
“any name, or signed with a fictitious name, demanding
“money, venison, or other valuable thing, or forcibly
“rescuing any person being in custody for any of the of-
“fences before-mentioned, or procuring any person by
“gift, or promise of money, or other reward, to join in
“any such unlawful act, or concealing or succouring
“such offenders, when, by order of council, &c. required
“to surrender—shall suffer death.”

The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law; but the Act of Parliament above-mentioned, has been rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute: it therefore behoves people to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give such particulars as we have been able to obtain respecting the malefactors in question.

RICHARD PARVIN was heretofore the master of a public-house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with a gang of ruffians who practised the robbing noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. The reader is already apprised that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. Now a servant-maid of Parvin's having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country; and Parvin calling there on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was committed to Winchester gaol, by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT was an apprentice to a tailor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them up to their chins, and had they not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them, they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and on their promise that no harm should attend him, he unhappily consented to bear them company.

Having provided themselves with pistols, and blackened their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and while the rest of the gang were killing deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; but while he was looking for it, the keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

Robert Kingshell, who was a native of Farnham, in Surry, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him, by knocking at his window, on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

HENRY MARSHALL was a man distinguished for his strength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman who had robbed a coach,
by

by giving him a single blow which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who shot the chase-keeper, as above-mentioned.

EDWARD PINK and JOHN PINK were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth, and had maintained the character of honest men, till they became weak enough to join the desperate gang of deer-stealers.

It now remains only to speak of JAMES ANSELL, who likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally supported himself; but for some years before he joined the desperate gang above-mentioned, he was a highwayman; and had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder which cost them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the above-mentioned offenders were taken into custody, and it being thought prudent to remove them to trial in London, they were removed thither under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate. On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty, and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion; the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue, nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

After passing the solemn sentence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justice of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer.

At the place of execution they were so dejected as to

be unable to address the populace; but they again confessed their sins, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy, through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency of devotion.

These malefactors were hanged at Tyburn on the 4th of December, 1723.

JOHN STANLEY,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, DECEMBER 23, 1723, FOR MURDER,

IN our accounts of the primary cause of the misfortunes and unhappy fate of William Burke, we have attempted to advise mothers against a too long unrestrained indulgence to their sons; and we now come to the case of a father, by the same kind of ill-judged fondness, laying the foundation of ruin and disgrace to his son.

Mr. Stanley was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce Hall, in Essex, a seat that belonged to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by his mother's side. Young Stanley being the favourite of his father, he began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when but a mere boy: for to stimulate his courage, those who fenced with him, frequently gave him wine, or other strong liquors.

In consequence of this treatment, the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity, that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young, Mr. Stanley being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his son with him; and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements; but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an
ensign's

ensign's commission; but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to General Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family: but this advice was lost on the young fellow, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life, borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming tables, and procured farther supplies from women with whom he made illicit connexions.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he might obtain from the weakness of one woman, he commonly squandered on others of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to supply his extravagance, was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England, the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern; and saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without farther ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, that matters thus ended, for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It

It will now be proper to mention something of his connexion with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. As he was returning from a gaming house which he frequented in Covent-garden, he met a Mr. Bryan, of Newgate-street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate-hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and from this circumstance a fatal connexion arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation in Red Lion-street, Holborn. In a short time Mr. Maycock removing into Southwark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connexion, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow; and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. Every line betrays the egregious coxcomb and supercilious flatterer.

“ I am to-morrow to be at the opera : O that I could
 “ add, with her I love. The opera, where beauties less
 “ beauteous than thou, sit panting, admired, and taste
 “ the sweet barbarian sounds. On Friday I shall be at
 “ the masquerade at Somerset House, where modest
 “ pleasure hides itself before it can be touched : but
 “ though it is uncertain in the shape, ’tis real in the sense ;
 “ for masks scorn to steal, and not repay : therefore, as
 “ they conceal the face, they oft make the body better
 “ known. At this end of the town, many faded beauties
 “ bid the oleos and the brush kiss their cheeks and lips,
 “ till their charms only glimmer with a borrowed grace ;
 “ so that a city beauty, rich in her native spring of sim-
 “ plicity and loveliness, will doubly shine with us : shine
 “ like the innocent morning blush of light, that glitters un-
 “ tainted on the gardens,”

This

This exquisite piece of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow; but she preferred a licentious life with Stanley, to a more virtuous connexion.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the mean time she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, in fear of the fatal consequences that might ensue: and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape Coast Castle, in the service of the African Company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark: but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching, and then leaving her to starve: and employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonourable action, the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he staid a considerable time, when he returned to England, and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradesmen,

tradesmen, they all walked together towards Hampstead, and meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued. One of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged hereby, the latter drew his sword, and making a pass at him, the sword ran into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, and to his backbone. The wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ against him for damages, to recover his expense of the cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of the sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with Captain Chickley, at a cyder-cellar in Covent-garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but a constable being sent for, broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then run his sword through the body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley still paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other persons, though he was not able to support her; for he had the vanity to think that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to pay true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband.

Mrs. Maycock having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery-lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond, of the Old Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the party, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said, the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock, now recognising Stanley, said, "What, Captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going: she said to Mr. Hammond's, in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As

As they walked down Fleet-street, Stanley desired his companion to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward, Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her, and some words having passed between them, he stabbed her so that she died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen, saw Stanley flourishing his sword while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, "I am stabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, "My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?"

The offender being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner; nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach; but on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was so weak that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people; but only said, that as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

He was executed at the age of twenty-five years.

STEPHEN GARDENER,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEBRUARY 3, 1724, FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

(With the Bellman's Notice to Criminals.)

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely; on which he ran away, and associated with blackguard boys in the streets, until he was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends determined to send him to sea, and put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates, that he grew heartily tired of a sea-faring life; and on his return from the first voyage, he promised the utmost obedience, if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and engaged with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pick-pocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket: but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horse-pond.

He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their proposals, till one night, when

when he had lost all his money and most of his clothes at cards ; then he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway proposed that they should rob his own brother ; which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They, in the next place, robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-gotten booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evidence against the other men, who were convicted, but respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-house in Fleet-lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property ; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parsons.

The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance ; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's watch-house ; however, the charge against them not being substantiated, it was necessary to dismiss them ; but before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, " Beware how you come here again, or this bellman will certainly say his verses over you : " for the bellman happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bellman of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses, as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death :

All you that in the condemn'd hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die.
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near,
That you before the Almighty must appear.

Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
 That you may not t' eternal flames be sent.
 And when St. Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
 The Lord have mercy on your souls !

Past twelve o'clock !

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 125, of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of a bellman.

“ Robert Doue, citizen and merchant taylor, of London,—gaue to the parish church of St. Sepulchres, the somme of 50*l*. That after the seuerall sessions of London, when the prisoners remain in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morrow following; the clarke (that is, the parson) of the church shoold come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterwards (in most Christian manner) put them in mind of their present condition, and ensuing execution, desiring them to be prepared therefore as they ought to be. When they are in the cart, and brought before the wall of the church, there he standeth ready with the same bell, and after certain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, desiring all the people there present to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylors Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duely done.”

Gardener was greatly affected when the constable told him that the bell-man would say his verses over him : but the impression it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a short time after this adventure, Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *passing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practised in modern times, and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the newspapers, yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to submit to the imposition.

The following is a description of this trick from a book formerly

formerly printed: "The rogues having concerted their
" plan, one of them takes a countryman into a public-
" house, under pretence of any business they can think
" of; then the other comes in as a stranger, and in a lit-
" tle time finds a pack of cards, which his companion
" had designedly laid on some shelf in the room: on
" which the two sharpers begin to play. At length one
" of them offers a wager on the game, and puts down his
" money. The other shews his cards to the countryman
" to convince him that he must certainly win, and offers
" to let him go halves in the wager; but soon after the
" countryman has laid down his money, the sharpers
" manage the matter so as to *pass off* with it."

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly: but it seems to have been improved on of late years: for the sharpers generally game with the countryman, till he has lost all his money; and then he has only to execrate his own folly, for suffering himself to be duped by a couple of rascals.

In this practice our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol; but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of "honour among thieves;" for Jones having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey, Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder; but his resolution failing him he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted:

parted: and on this occasion Jones said, "Hark-ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "—To London," said he. "Why then (replied Jones) you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequences that must attend his illicit practices: but it appeared to have no good effect upon him; for soon after he quitted Jones, he broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London, he robbed a house in Addle-hill, but was not apprehended for it: in a short time after he broke open the house of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds.

In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin, and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution, he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes, though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning, by his calamitous fate, to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

JOSEPH

JOSEPH BLAKE, alias BLUESKIN,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, NOVEMBER 11, 1724, FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS was one of the most notorious and daring thieves in the days in which he committed his depredations. He had offended in all the steps of villany, beginning, in his boyish years, as a pick-pocket; but he confined himself to none, appearing in the streets, in houses, and on the highway, as booty presented. His enormities were the subject of public conversation, and the dread of the traveller.

He was a native of London, and was sent to school by his parents, for the space of six years, but made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he made an acquaintance with William Blewitt, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the most notorious villains of the age: he then acquired the nickname of Blueskin, from his dark countenance.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pick-pocket, and had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of the robberies they committed, they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions, Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government; but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence; since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and, therefore, he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security he was lodged in Wood-street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which time Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the
court

court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognisance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman, who happened to be present at Sir John's, asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey? to which another gentleman answered, "three sessions;" and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The footpad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account:

At the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1724, Joseph Blake, otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36*l.* and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door which had been bolted and padlocked was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings, with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered: in answer to which Arnold said, "Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you don't deliver your knife immediately, I will chop your arm off." Hereupon the prisoner dropped the knife; and Wild entering, he was taken into custody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor, on which Wild said to the prisoner, "There's the ken;" and the latter replied, "Say no more of that, Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but what I fear is, that I shall afterwards be carried to Surgeons'-Hall, and anatomized;" to which Wild replied, "No, I'll take care to prevent that, for I'll give you a coffin."

William

William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself; and the jury brought in a verdict of Guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given, Blake addressed the court in the following terms:—"On Wednesday morning last, Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs,* "I believe you will not bring 40*l.* this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I'll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon." And then turning to me, he said, I believe you must die—I'll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized."

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but going to visit him in the Baildock, previously to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, and cut Jonathan's throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we shall see that Jonathan was preserved for a different fate.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not shew a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said, No; but that a sudden thought entered his mind; or he would have provided a knife which would have cut off his head at once.

On the nearer approach of death he appeared still less concerned, and it was thought that his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of escaping; but seeing no prospect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued even to the day of his death! for he was observed to be intoxicated even under the gallows.

* Jacobs was then a prisoner, but afterwards transported.

JOHN SHEPPARD.

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, NOVEMBER 23, 1724, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

No public robber ever obtained more notoriety than the man whose life and adventures are now presented. No violator of the law had more "hair-breadth escapes" than Jack Sheppard. He found employment for the bar, the pulpit, and the stage. The arts, too, were busied in handing to posterity a memoranda for us never to follow the example of Jack Sheppard.

Sir James Thornhill, the first painter of the day, painted his portrait, from which engravings in mezzotinto were made, and the few still in preservation are objects of curiosity. On this the poet began to wield his grey-goose quill, which produced the following lines:

"Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion save.

"Though life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the farthest shores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

"This piece to latest time shall stand,
And shew the wonders of thy hand.
Thus former masters grac'd their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

"Apelles, Alexander drew,
Cæsar is to Aurelius due,
Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,
And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine."

He was for a considerable time the principal subject of conversation in all ranks of society, and histories of his life issued from the press in profusion. A pantomimic entertainment was brought forward at the theatre-royal, Drury-lane, called "Harlequin Sheppard," wherein his adventures, prison-breakings, and other extraordinary escapes, were represented. Another dramatic work

was



JACK SHEPPARD .

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was published, as a farce of three acts, called "The Prison Breaker; or, The Adventures of John Sheppard:" and a part of it, with songs, catches, and glees added, was performed at Bartholomew Fair, under the title of "The Quaker's Opera."

The clergy preached the adventures of Jack Sheppard; and a part of a sermon on this occasion we shall give, by way of a finale to the account of this surprising character, whose history alone has been sold for the price of half a dozen numbers of our Criminal Chronology.

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields, in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate-street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a carpenter. He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when, frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury-lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter, he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence housebreaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess, he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bain's, a piece broker in White Horse Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, (which he deposited in his trunk,) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of 22*l*. which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connexions, and searching his trunk, found the piece of

fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal, alleging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spital-fields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any further steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he remained some time longer in the family; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this, Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the round-house of the parish of St. Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for two petty offences, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to
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lend him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first act they committed in concert was the robbing of a public-house in Southwark; whence they carried off some money and wearing apparel: but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clare-market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in less than a fortnight afterwards, stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillips in Drury-lane.

Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence, he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess; but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sykes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's round-house; but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester-fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out, "a pick-pocket," on which Sheppard was taken and lodged in St. Anne's round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate, and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New-Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance,
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some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window ; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale ; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower order of people by this exploit, and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alleging as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connexion ; but at the same time said, that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument maker, near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master, and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They put the door open, and Lamb went to bed to prevent suspicion : but notwithstanding this, his master did suspect him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day, Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods, and being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed

committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villany; and if this were the case, Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October, 1721, he was tried upon four indictments for felony and burglary, and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against one of his associates on another occasion.

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles; and being capitally convicted received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouses, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday, the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

We must here observe, that in the old gaol of Newgate there was within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron spikes, which opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might easily be broken off. On

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spital-fields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Clare-market, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden, in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations: and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London, after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending; having passed the shop, they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed, till the diligence of the gaol-keepers should relax; but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as were expected to be effectual in preventing his future escape. He was put into a strong room called the Castle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public being greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chissel; but the utmost

most care was taken, that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Sheppard, nevertheless, was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says, "that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long, and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach, as to enable him to get into the red-room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this red-room had been opened; but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the pas-

sage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side ; but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened it.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock ; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door ; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked ; however, he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings ; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was, how he should descend with the greatest safety ; accordingly he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on, would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate ; but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle, and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket to ease his descent ; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone : wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel ; and sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, " What noise is that ? " and a man answered, " Perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours ; after which

which he crept down once more, as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned, he resolved to venture all hazards; but in stealing down the stairs, he stumbled against a chamber door; but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchman good morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-Inn-lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, have given his right hand for "a hammer, a chissel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham-court-road, where he got a supply of bread and cheese, small beer, and some other necessities, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding-place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house coming thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a bastard-child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support,

port, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said that if that was all it did not much signify; but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard-child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on, our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade, in Rupert-street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad singers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Black-friars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a considerable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tie-wig,

wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch, though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate-street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney-coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house in Maypole-alley, Clare-market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from ale-houses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse-boy who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had then two pistols in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel; but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before

before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice ; for having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart among the crowd, to have run through the narrow passage where the sheriff's officers could not follow on horseback ; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but this scheme might have succeeded ; but before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution ; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down, and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down, his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public house in Long-acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the churchyard of St. Martin in the Fields.

Extract from a Sermon, warning people against following the steps of John Sheppard :

“ Now, my beloved, what a melancholy consideration
“ it is, that men should shew so much regard for the pre-
“ servation of a poor perishing body, that can remain at
“ most but a few years, and at the same time be so un-
“ accountably negligent of a precious soul, which must
continue

“ continue to the age of eternity ! O what care ! what
 “ pains ! what diligence ! and what contrivances are made
 “ use of for, and laid out upon, these frail and tottering
 “ tabernacles of clay : when, alas ! the nobler part of us
 “ is allowed so very small a share of our concern, that
 “ we scarce will give ourselves the trouble of bestowing
 “ a thought upon it.

“ We have a remarkable instance of this, in a noto-
 “ rious malefactor, well known by the name of Jack
 “ Sheppard ! what amazing difficulties has he overcome,
 “ what astonishing things has he performed, for the sake
 “ of a stinking miserable carcass, hardly worth hanging ;
 “ how dexterously did he pick the padlock of his chain
 “ with a crooked nail ; how manfully did he burst his fet-
 “ ters asunder, climb up the chimney, wrench out an iron
 “ bar, break his way through a stone wall, and make the
 “ strong doors of a dark entry fly before him, till he got
 “ upon the leads of the prison ; and then fixing a blanket
 “ to the wall, with a spike he stole out of the chapel,
 “ how intrepidly did he descend to the top of the turner’s
 “ house, and how cautiously pass down the stair, and
 “ make his escape at the street door !”

LEWIS HOUSSART,

EXECUTED AT SWAN-ALLEY, SHOREDITCH, DEC. 7, 1724, FOR MURDER.

THIS malefactor was born at Sedan, in France ; but his parents being Protestants, quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Lewis the Fourteenth, and settled in Dutch Brabant.

Young Houssart’s father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country when he became acquainted with Ann Rondeau, whom he married

married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her with disgust, and going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser; and getting acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Prince's-street, Lothbury, he married her at St. Antholin's church.

No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink some wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish-clerk observed that Houssart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connexion, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, that he had no other wife but herself.

During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan-alley, Shoreditch, and Mrs. Houssart being in an ill state of health, her husband called upon her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring her something to relieve her: and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours; but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her, to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method:

Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head in Bishopsgate-street, she went thither and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan-alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother, Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog in Bishopsgate-street.

Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman,

man, Houssart hid himself in the alley, till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room and cut her throat with a razor, and thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black Dog, after enquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim, Houssart went to his other wife at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprise at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed; and soon after this Houssart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau having found her daughter murdered, as above-mentioned, went to her son, to whom she communicated the affair: and he having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards: but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of both his marriages; but an objection was made by his counsel, on a point of law, "Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister, and he was only once married according to the form of the church of England." On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houssart lay in Newgate waiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he

should be apprehended. The mother told him he would be only sworn to tell the truth. "Why," said he, "I thought they would hang him:" but the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of peace, and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houssart as the person who had employed him in the manner above-mentioned.

In consequence hereof, Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it, no proceedings could be had thereon; and therefore another appeal was lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urging that he was not prepared for his trial, he was yet indulged till a subsequent sessions.

The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the counsel for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of, the proceedings:—

I. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

II. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis but Louis.

III. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but, a barber-surgeon.

IV. That there were no such persons as John Doe and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

V. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant; and

VI. That

VI. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The counsel for the appellant replied to these several pleas in substance as follows :—

To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined.

To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned to the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy and the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name.

To the third, it was urged that, on the two former indictments, he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master.

To the fourth it was urged, that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Roe, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; and this fact was sworn to.

In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant: that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.

With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

Hereupon the trial was brought on, and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, to which that of the boy was added, the jury determined that the prisoner was guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His behaviour after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and, as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more thoughtless, and more hardened, and frequently declared that he would

cut his throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife.

His behaviour at the place of execution was equally hardened. He refused to pray with the ordinary of Newgate and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

THOMAS PACKER and JOSEPH PICKEN,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEBRUARY 1, 1725, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a shoemaker in Butcher-hall-lane, Newgate-street. He was bound apprentice to the master of the Ship Tavern at Greenwich; but not being content in his situation, he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer Tavern, near Red-lion-square; and having served the rest of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not been long out of his time before he married; but the expences of his new connection, added to those arising from the extravagance of his disposition, soon reduced him to circumstances of distress.

Joseph Picken was likewise a native of London, being the son of a tailor in Clerkenwell; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingsgate, with whom he served an apprenticeship, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid Inn at Windsor: but his wife being a bad manager, and his business much neglected, he was soon reduced to the utmost extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to sell his bed, and sleep on the floor, his wife advised him to go on the highway, to supply their necessities. Fatally for him, he listened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of these unhappy men tempted them to
make

make a speedy resolution of committing depredations on the public; in consequence of which they hired horses as to go to Windsor; but instead thereof they rode towards Finchley; and in a road between Highgate and Hornsey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to dismount, and turned their horses loose.

Hastening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public house in Monmouth-street, where one of them taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his pistol with it, which being remarked by a person in company, he procured a peace officer, who took them into custody on suspicion.

Having been lodged in the Round House for that night, they were taken before a magistrate on the following day; and being separately examined, disagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and swearing to their persons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar, they endeavoured to prove that they were absent from the spot at the time the robbery was committed: but failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given against them; and they received sentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every sign of contrition. Picken was in a very bad state of health almost the whole time he lay under sentence of death; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who first advised him to the commission of the crime, yet never visited him during his miserable confinement in Newgate. These unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent resignation, and received the sacrament with every sign of genuine devotion.

They were so shocked at the idea of their approaching dissolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehension, and were unable to give that advice to the surrounding multitude, which, however, might be easily implied from their pitiable condition.

This robbery, for any thing that appeared to the contrary, being their first offence against the law, these unfortunate men were, surely, objects of royal clemency.—In more merciful times, like the present, we are of opinion

nion that our king would at least have remitted their punishment; but most likely have granted them a pardon.

VINCENT DAVIS,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, APRIL 30, 1725, FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

WHENEVER a man ill treats a woman, who by every action of her life shows herself his friend, the partner of his toil, and the consoler of his mind, under worldly misfortunes, it is abominable; but what punishment awaits the execrable wretch who sheds the blood of such a wife? Such, however, shocking to relate, befel the wife of this abhorred murderer, who appears to have possessed qualities, deserving the protection of a good man. We have already, in the duty we owe the reader, had occasion to present too many instances of the flagitious conduct of females; but to the good, we would repeat, after the excellent Poet Otway,—

“There’s in you all that we believe in heaven,
Amazing brightness, purity, and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love.”

This shocking sinner, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife, and though he had been married some years, accustomed himself to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning he staid till noon; and coming home to dinner went out again soon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with some bad women at a house in Pye-corner; and coming home, mentioned this circumstance to her neighbours.

Soon afterwards the husband returned; and using some threatening expressions, the wife desired a lodger in the same house to go down stairs with her, lest he should beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witness to Davis’s beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her because she had interrupted him while in the company of the other women.—Hereupon the wife ran away, and secreted herself for a time; but returning to her lodgings, begged admission
into

into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed.— In the interim, the husband had been out ; but returning, went to bed, and when his wife thought he was asleep, she went in the room to search his pockets, in which she found only a few halfpence, and coming down stairs said that her husband had laid a knife by the bedside, from which she concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into her husband's room in the morning, and said, "What do you mean by threatening to commit murder in my house?" On this he snatched up his knife ; and the landlady taking hold of a small cane, he took it from her, saying he valued it as his life ; as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day the wife and landlady finding him at the before-mentioned house in Pye-corner, he beat his wife most severely ; on which the landlady advised Mrs. Davis to swear the peace against him, and have him imprisoned, as she had done on a similar occasion. About an hour after this he went home, and said to his wife, "What business have you here, or any where in my company?—You shall follow me no more, for I am married to little Jenny."

The wife, who seems to have had more love for him than such a miscreant deserved, said she could not help it, but she would drink with him and be friends ; and on his taking his supper to an alehouse, she followed him ; but soon returned with her hands bloody, saying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which she did, and earnestly entreated him to be reconciled to her ; but instead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and following her into the landlady's room, he there stabbed her in the breast.

Thus wounded, the poor wretch ran down stairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was sheltered in a neighbouring house, where sitting down, and pulling off her stomacher, she bled to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchman, who soon apprehended Davis and conducted him to the house
where

where the dead woman lay; on which he said, "Betty, won't you speak to me?" A woman who was present said, "You will find to your sorrow, that she will never speak more;" and to this the murderer replied, "Well, I know I shall be hanged; and I would as soon suffer for her as another."

Being committed to the care of a peace officer, he was conveyed to prison, in his way to which he said, "I have killed the best wife in the world, and I am certain of being hanged; but for God's sake don't let me be anatomized."

When he was brought to his trial, the above recited facts were proved by the testimony of several witnesses; and on the jury pronouncing the verdict of Guilty, he execrated the court with the most profane imprecations.

While he lay under sentence of death, he affected a false bravery; but when orders were given for his execution, his assumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified, as well indeed he might at his approaching fate. He had such a dread of falling into the hands of the surgeons, that he sent letters to several of his acquaintance, begging they would rescue his body, if any attempt should be made to take it away.

He behaved in the most gloomy and reserved manner at the place of execution. It was our intention to have commented, at some length, on the unmanly and inhuman crime of a man murdering his wife, in our account of the preceding murderer, Lewis Houssart; but we find the case of Davis even still more detestable, and the feelings of our readers on its perusal must render it unnecessary to do more than express our detestation of such monsters.

ROBERT HARPHAM,

COINER, EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 24, 1725.

THIS offender lived in Westminster, where he carried on the business of a carpenter for a considerable time with some success; but at length had the misfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very dishonest way of acquiring money. Having

Having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St. Paul's Church-yard, and pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Rosemary-lane, and there carried on the same dangerous business for some time, till the neighbours observing that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavourable suspicions: on which Harpham took a cellar in Paradise-row, near Hanover-square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this situation, Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him; and was imprudent enough to take him into his workshop, and show him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said, "In this press I can make buttons; but I will show you something else that is a greater rarity." Having said this he struck a piece of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of half a guinea, except the milling on the edge; but another instrument being applied to it, the half guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn-street, St. James's, where Harpham took an empty cellar, and on the old pretence of button-making, gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals either by baking, stewing, roasting, or boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar, permitting no one to enter but Fordham; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place, suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties; in consequence of which Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money, when he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to New-

gate; and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death.

His behaviour after his commitment was unusually serious; for as he was not weak enough to flatter himself with unreasonable hopes of life, so he began to make an early preparation for the important change that awaited him. He procured religious books, and exercised himself in the offices of devotion, in a very earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no more food than should be absolutely necessary for the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight.

While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve, on his own account: for that slavery, in a foreign country, was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with a crime, but gave the Ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the error of their ways.

The sacrament was administered to him in private on the day before his execution, at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion, while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude.

At the place of execution he exhorted the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

JONATHAN WILD,

(THE PRINCE OF ROBBERS,)

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 24, 1725.

OF all the thieves that ever infested London, this man was the most notorious. That eminent vagabond Bamfylde Moore Carew was recognized as "King of the Beggars:"



JONATHAN WILD.

gars:”—So may the name and memory of Jonathan Wild be ever held in abhorrence, as “THE PRINCE OF ROBBERS.”

The single history of the arts, deceptions, cruelty, perfidy, and crimes, of this man, filled a volume; and should we occupy more room in our epitome than may be deemed necessary, we have only to observe, that scarcely would the whole catalogue of the other crimes exposed in our Chronology, centered in one man, produce a parallel with this complete thief-taker, and most finished thief.

Jonathan Wild was born at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, about the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who at a proper age put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business. His father intended to bring him up to his own trade; but changed that design, and at about the age of fifteen, apprenticed him for seven years to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, he returned to Wolverhampton, where he married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by following his business as a journeyman.

He had been married about two years, in which time his wife had a son, when he formed the resolution of visiting London, and very soon after deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade: being of an extravagant disposition, many months had not elapsed after his arrival in London when he was arrested and thrown into Wood-street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards of four years. In a pamphlet which he published, and which we shall more particularly mention hereafter, he says, that during his imprisonment, “it was impossible but he must, in some measure, be let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement; and particularly Mr. Hitchin’s management.”

During his residence in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his

fellow-prisoners, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged, with singular satisfaction. In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pick-pockets, and abandoned prostitutes, on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the variety of felonies of which she had been guilty, she was put under confinement for debt. An intimacy subsisted between them while they remained in the Compter. They had no sooner obtained their freedom, than they lived under the denomination of man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they soon obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house, in Cock-alley, facing Cripplegate Church.

Milliner being personally acquainted with most of the notorious characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, she was considered by Wild as a most useful companion; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villainy.

Wild industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every denomination, who resorted in great numbers to his house, in order to dispose of their booties: and they looked upon him with a kind of awe; for being acquainted with their proceedings, they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power.

Wild was at little difficulty to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves, at something less than their real value; for at this period no law existed for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods: but the evil increasing to so enormous a degree, it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act therefore was passed, consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation, for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by the above-mentioned law; to obviate the intention of which, however, he suggested the following plan: he called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew, and observed to them, that if they carried their booties to such of the pawn-

pawn-brokers who were known to be not much troubled with the scruples of conscience, they would scarcely advance on the property one-fourth of its real value; and that if they were offered to strangers, either for sale, or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties were rendered amenable to the laws. He observed that the most industrious thieves were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood; and that they must either submit to be half starved, or be in great and continual danger of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommending them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honour. He then proposed that when they had gained any booty they should deliver it to him, instead of carrying it to the pawn-broker, saying he would restore the goods to the owners, by which means greater sums would be raised than by depositing them with the pawn-brokers, while the thieves would be perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, judging that it would not be prudent to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it was the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes, saying that some suspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to plead that the broker might be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness, and to use every argument in his power for exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves.

Happy in the prospect of regaining their property, without the trouble and expence necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved the conduct of
Wild,

Wild, and sometimes rewarded him even with one-half of the real value of the goods restored. Persons who had been robbed, however, were not always satisfied with Wild's declaration ; and sometimes they questioned him particularly as to the manner of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to be offended that his honour should be disputed, saying, that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend ; but since his good intentions were received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing further to say on the subject, but must take his leave ; adding, that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock-alley, Cripplegate. This affectation of resentment seldom failed to possess the people who had been robbed, with a more favourable opinion of his principles ; and the suspicion of his character being removed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received no gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which was to be paid the broker : thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution, for his offences came under the description of no law then existing. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character, so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes.

Wild's business greatly increasing, and his name becoming exceedingly popular, he altered his mode of proceeding. Instead of applying to persons who had been robbed, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted, in hopes of recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him more effectually to impose on the public. When persons came to his office, they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving his advice. This ceremony being dispatched, he entered in his book the names and places of abode of the parties, with all the particulars which they could communicate, respecting the robberies, and the rewards that would be given,

given, provided the goods were recovered; and they were then desired to call again in a few days, when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence.

Upon calling to know the success of his inquiries, he informed them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had informed him, that the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property, than by returning it for the proposed reward; saying, however, that if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains, he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeable to the terms already proposed; but at the same time, artfully insinuating that the most safe, expeditious, and prudent method, would be to make some addition to the reward.

Wild, at length, became eminent in his profession, which proved highly lucrative. When he had discovered the utmost sum that it was likely the people would give for the recovery of their property, he requested them to call again, and in the meantime he caused the goods to be ready for delivery.

He derived considerable advantages from examining persons who had been robbed; for he thence became acquainted with the particulars which the thieves had omitted to communicate to him, and was enabled to detect them, if they concealed any part of their booties. Being in possession of the secrets of all the notorious robbers, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact; for they were conscious, that by opposing his inclination they should involve themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man, articles, which had been before considered as of no use but to the owners, now became matters claiming a particular attention from the thieves by whom the metropolis and its environs were infested. Pocket-books, books of accounts, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were now esteemed very profitable booty. Books of accounts, and other writings, being of
great

great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards : and the same may be said of pocket-books, for they generally contained memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes, and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated money so fast, that he considered himself as a man of consequence, and to support his imaginary dignity, he dressed in laced clothes, and wore a sword. He first exercised his martial instrument on the person of his accomplice and reputed wife, Mary Milliner, who having on some occasion provoked him, he instantly struck at her with it, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation ; but in acknowledgment of the great services she had rendered him, by introducing him to so lucrative a profession, he allowed her a weekly stipend till her decease.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection, he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchen, the city-marshal, a man wicked as himself. These celebrated co-partners in villainy, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, paraded the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill-fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons ; but such as complimented these public reformers with private douceurs were allowed to practise every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchen and Wild, however, became jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account.

In the year 1715, Wild removed from his house in Cock-alley, to a Mrs. Seagoe's, in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with the usual success, notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchen, his rival in iniquity, to suppress his proceedings.

In 1718, the marshal attacked Wild in a pamphlet, called "The Regulator: or, a Discovery of Thieves, Thief-takers, &c." which was answered by his antagonist: and from each of these curious performances we shall here introduce some extracts:

Abstract

Abstract of the City Marshal's Account of Jonathan Wild, &c.

“ If these should hold their peace, the stones in the street would cry out” of such abominable practices, as are committed and carried on in this city and places adjacent, by thieves and robbers, and—thief-takers.

The reader's astonishment will increase when we observe, that these two abandoned miscreants had the daring effrontery to appeal to the public, and attacked each other with every scurrility in pamphlets, and in advertisements. Never, surely, was the press so debased, as in disgorging the filth of their pens. Hinchin published what he called, “ *The Regulator; or, a Discovery of Thieves and Thief-takers.*” It is an ignorant and impudent insult to the reader, and replete with scurrility against Wild, whom he brands in his capacity of thief-taker, with being worse than the thief. Wild retorts by calling the marshal the greatest rogue in the universe; and they spoke of each other most truly, for such another brace of villains were, perhaps, not upon earth.

Hinchin having so greatly debased the respectable post of City Marshal, the Lord Mayor suspended him from his office. In order to repair this loss, he determined upon the affectation of burying his resentment, and confederating with Wild. To effect this, he wrote as follows:

“ I am very sensible that you are let into the knowledge of the secrets of the Compter, particularly with relation to the securing of pocket-books; but your experience is inferior to mine: I can put you in a far better method than you are acquainted with, and which may be done with safety; for, though I am suspended, I still retain the power of acting as constable, and notwithstanding I cannot be heard before my Lord Mayor, as formerly, I have interest among the aldermen, upon any complaint.

“ But I must first tell you, that you spoil the trade of thief-taking, in advancing greater rewards than are necessary. I give but half-a-crown a book, and, when the thieves and pick-pockets see you and I confederate, they'll submit to our terms and likewise continue their thefts, for fear of coming to the gallows by

our means. You shall take a turn with me, as my servant, or assistant, and we'll commence our rambles this night."

Wild readily accepted the ex-marshal's proposals; towards dark they proceeded to Temple-bar, and called in at several brandy-shops and ale-houses, between that and Fleet-ditch; some of the masters of these houses complimented the marshal with punch, others with brandy, and some presented him with fine ale, offering their service to their worthy protector.

The marshal made them little answer; but gave them to understand, all the service he expected from them was, to give him information of pocket-books, or any goods stolen, as a pay back: "For you women of the town," (addressing himself to some females in one of the shops) "make it a common practice to resign things of this nature to the bullies and rogues of your retinue;—but this shall no longer be borne with; I'll give you my word both they and you shall be detected, unless you deliver all the pocket-books you meet with to me. What do you think I bought my place for, but to make the most of it? and you are to understand this is my man (pointing to the buckle-maker) to assist me. And if you at any time for the future refuse to yield up the watches and books you take, either to me, or my servant, you may be assured of all being sent to Bridewell, and not one of you shall be permitted to walk the streets. For notwithstanding I am under suspension, (the chief reason of which is, for not suppressing the practices of such vermin as you) I have still a power of punishing, and you shall dearly pay for not paying your respects to me." Then asking them to what part of the town they were rambling, and whether they did not see him? to which they answered, that they saw him at a distance, but he caught hold of them so hastily, that they had no time to address him. "We have been strolling," continued the pick-pockets, "over Moorfields, and from thence to the Blue-Boar, in pursuit of you; but not finding you as usual, we were under some fears that you were indisposed." The marshal replied, he should have given them a meeting there, but had been employed the whole

whole day with his new man. "You are to be very careful," said he, "not to oblige any person but myself, or servant, with pocket-books; if you presume to do otherwise, you shall swing for it, and we are out in the city every night to observe your motions." These instructions given, the pick-pockets left us, making their master a low congee, and promising obedience. This was the progress of the first night with the buckle-maker, whom he told that his staff of authority terrified the ignorant to the extent of his wishes.

Some nights afterwards, walking towards the back part of St. Paul's, the marshal thus addressed the buckle-maker: "I'll now show you a brandy-shop that entertains no company but whores and thieves. This is a house for our purpose, and I am informed, that a woman of the town who frequents it has lately robbed a gentleman of his watch and pocket-book: this advice I received from her companion, with whom I have a good understanding. We will go into the house, and, if we can find this woman, I will assume a more stern countenance, (though at best I look like an infernal,) and, by continued threats, extort a confession, and by that means get possession of the watch and pocket-book; in order to which, do you slyly accost her companion."—Here he described her.—"Call to her, and inform her, that your master is in a damned ill humour, and swears, if she does not instantly make a discovery where the watch and pocket-book may be found at farthest by to-morrow, he will certainly send her to the Compter, and thence to the workhouse."

The means being thus concerted to gain the valuable goods, both master and man entered the shop in pursuit of the game, and, according to expectation, they found the person wanted, with several others; whereupon the marshal, shewing an enraged countenance, becoming the design, and Wild being obliged to follow his example, the company said, that the master and man looked as sour as two devils. "Devils," said the marshal, "I'll make some of you devils, if you do not immediately discover the watch and pocket-book I am employed to procure."—"We do not know your meaning, sir," answered some. "Who

do you discourse to?" said others: "we know nothing of it." The marshal replied, in a more soft tone, "You are ungrateful to the last degree, to deny me this small request, when I was never let into the secret of any thing to be taken from a gentleman, but I communicated it to you, describing the person so exactly, that you could not mistake the man; and there is so little got at this rate, that the devil may trade with you for me."

This speech being over, the marshal gave a nod to his man, who called one of the women to the door, and, telling the story above directed, the female answered, "Unconsionable devil! when he gets five or ten guineas, not to bestow above five or ten shillings upon us unfortunate wretches! but, however, rather than go to the Compter, I'll try what is to be done."

The woman returning to the marshal, asked him what he would give for the delivery of the watch, being seven or eight pounds in value, and the pocket-book having in it several notes and goldsmith's bills: to whom the marshal answered, a guinea; and told her, it was much better to comply than to go to Newgate, which she must certainly expect upon her refusal.

The woman replied, that the watch was in pawn for forty shillings, and if he did not advance that sum she should be obliged to strip herself for the redemption, though, when her furbelowed scarf was laid aside, she had nothing underneath but furniture for a paper-mill. After abundance of words, he allowed her 30s. for the watch and book, which she accepted, and the watch was never returned to the owner.

Some little time after this, a gentleman in liquor going into the Blue-Boar, near Moorfields, with a woman of the town, immediately lost his watch. He applied to the marshal, desiring his assistance, but the buckle-maker being well acquainted with the walk between Cripple-gate and Moorfields, had the fortune to find the woman. The master immediately seized her, on notice given, and, by vehement threatenings, obliged her to a confession. She declared, that she had stolen the watch, and carried it to a woman that kept a brandy-shop near, desiring her to assist in the sale of it. The mistress of the brandy-shop readily

readily answered, she had it from an honest young woman that frequented her house, whose husband was gone to sea; whereupon she pawned the watch for its value, and ordered the sale.

This story seeming reasonable, a watch-maker purchased the watch, and gave the money agreed for it, which was fifty shillings. Thus the sale of the watch being discovered, the marshal, with his staff and assistants, immediately repaired to the watch-maker's house, and seized the watch-maker in the same manner as a person would do the greatest criminal: he carried him to a public-house, telling him, that, if he did not forthwith send for the watch, he should be committed to Newgate.

The watch-maker, not being any ways accustomed to unfair dealings, directly answered, that he bought the watch, and the person he had it of would produce the woman that stole it, if it were stolen, the woman being then present. The marshal replied, he had no business with the persons that stole the watch, but with him in whose possession it was found: and that, if he did not instantly send for the watch, and deliver it without insisting upon any money, but, on the contrary, return him thanks for his civility, which deserved five or ten pieces, he would, without delay, send him to Newgate.

Hereupon the innocent watch-maker, being much surprised, sent for the watch, and surrendered it to him; and since that he has been well satisfied, that the person who owned the watch made a present to the marshal of three guineas for his trouble, and the poor watch-maker never had a farthing for his fifty shillings. This story and the following sufficiently demonstrate the honesty of the city-marshal:—

Some time ago, a biscuit-baker near Wapping, having lost a pocket-book, wherein was, among other papers, an exchequer bill for 100*l.* applied himself to the marshal's man, the buckle-maker, for the recovery thereof; the buckle-maker advised him to advertise it, and stop the payment of the bill, which he did accordingly; but having no account of his bill, he came to the buckle-maker several times about it, and at length he told him, there had been with him a tall man, with a long peruke and sword, calling

calling himself the city-marshal, and asked him, if he had lost his pocket-book? the biscuit-baker answered, Yes, desiring to know his reasons for asking him such a question, and whether he could give him any intelligence. He replied, no, he could not give him any intelligence of it as yet, but desired to be informed, whether he had employed any person to search after it? To which the biscuit-baker answered, he had employed one Wild. Whereupon the marshal told him, he was under a mistake, he should have applied to him, who was the only person in England that could have served him, being well assured it was entirely out of the power of Wild, or any of those fellows, to know where it was.—This was very certain, he having it at that time in his custody, and desired to know the reward that would be given. The biscuit-baker answered, he would give 10*l*. The marshal replied, that a great reward should be offered, for that exchequer bills and those things were ready money, and could immediately be sold, and that, if he had employed him in the beginning, and offered 40*l*. or 50*l*. he would have served him.

The biscuit-baker acquainted Wild with this story. Wild gave it as his opinion that the pocket-book was in the marshal's possession, and that it would be to no purpose to continue advertising it, he being well assured that the marshal would not have taken the pains to find out the biscuit-baker, unless he knew how he could get at it.

Upon the whole, Wild advised the biscuit-baker rather to advance his bidding, considering what hands the note was in, and because the marshal had often told his servant, how easily he could dispose of bank-notes and exchequer-bills at gaming houses, which he very much frequented.

Pursuant to this advice, the owner at last went a second time to the marshal, and bid 40*l*. for his pocket-book and bill. “Zounds, sir,” said the marshal, “you are too late!” which was all the satisfaction he gave him. Thus the poor biscuit-baker was tricked out of his exchequer bill; but it happened a short time after, that some of the young fry of pick-pockets, under the tuition of the marshal, fell out in sharing the money given them for this
very

very pocket-book ; whereupon one of them came to the person first employed by the biscuit-baker, and discovered the whole matter, viz. that he had sold the biscuit-baker's pocket-book, with the 100*l.* exchequer-note in it, and other bills, to the city marshal, at a tavern in Aldersgate-street, for four or five guineas.

The person to whom the boy applied himself, asked him what sort of a person the gentleman was that he took it from, who readily answered, that he was a lusty elderly man, with light hair, which was very apparent to be the same person. There are several living who will justify this account of the whole affair, and the exchequer-bill was never returned to the owner, but paid to another person, though it could never be traced back.

Some time ago, when a person stood in the pillory near Charing-cross, a gentleman in the crowd was deprived of a pocket-book, which had in it bills and lottery-tickets, to the value of several hundred pounds ; and a handsome reward was at first offered for it in a public advertisement, 30*l.* at least.

The marshal, having a suspicion that a famous pick-pocket, known by his lame hand, had taken the book, he applied to him, and, to enforce a confession and delivery told him, with a great deal of assurance, that he must be the person, such a man, with a lame hand, being described by the gentleman to be near him, and who, he was certain, had stolen his book. "In short," says he, "you had the book, and you must bring it to me, and you shall share the reward ; but if you refuse to comply with such advantageous terms, you must never expect to come within the city gates ; for, if you do, Bridewell, at least, if not Newgate, shall be your residence."

After several meetings, the marshal's old friend could not deny that he had the pocket-book : but he said to the marshal, "I did not expect this rigorous treatment from you, after the services I have done you, in concealing you several times, and by that means keeping you out of a gaol. It is not the way to expect any future service, when all my former good offices are forgotten."

Notwithstanding these reasons, the marshal still insisted upon

upon what he had at first proposed ; and at length the pick-pocket, considering that he could not prepare to the Exchange, or elsewhere, to follow his pilfering employment, without the marshal's consent, and fearing to be a mark of his revenge, he condescended to part with the pocket-book, upon terms reasonable between buyer and seller. Whereupon, says the marshal, " I lost all my money last night at gaming except a gold watch in my pocket, which I believe there will be no inquiry after, it coming to hand by an intrigue with a woman of the town, whom the gentleman will be ashamed to prosecute, for fear of exposing himself. I'll exchange goods for goods with you." So the pick-pocket, rather than he would risk the consequences of disobliging his master, concluded the bargain.

One night, not far from St. Paul's, the marshal, and the buckle-maker his man, met with a detachment of pick-pocket boys, who instantly, at the sight of their master, took to their heels and ran away. The buckle-maker asked the meaning of their surprise. To which the marshal answered, " I know their meaning, a pack of rogues ! they were to have met me in the fields, this morning, with a book I am informed they have taken from a gentleman, and they are afraid of being secured for their disobedience. There is Jack Jones among them.—We'll catch the whore's bird." Jack Jones, running behind a coach to make his escape, was taken by the marshal and his man. The master carried him to a tavern, and threatened him severely, telling him he believed they were turned house-breakers, and that they were concerned in a burglary lately committed by four young criminals. This happened to be a fact, and the boy fearing the marshal had been informed of it, he, for his own security, confessed, and the marshal promised to save his life, on his becoming evidence. Whereupon the marshal committed the boy to the Compter till the next morning, when he carried him before a justice of the peace, who took his information, and issued a warrant for the apprehending his companions.

Notice being given where the criminals were to be found, viz. at a house in Beach-lane, the marshal and his
man

man went privately in the night thither, and listening at the door, they overheard the boys, with several others in a mixed company.

They entered the house, where they met ten or eleven persons, who were in a great rage, inquiring what business the marshal had there, and saluted him with a few oaths, which occasioned the marshal to make a prudent retreat, pulling the door after him, and leaving his little man to the mercy of the savage company.

In a short time the marshal returned with eight or ten watchmen and a constable; and, at the door, the marshal, out of his dastardly disposition, though his pretence was a ceremonious respect, obliged the constable to go in first; but the constable and marshal were both so long in their compliments, that the man thought neither of them would enter in: at last the constable entering with his long staff extended before him, the marshal manfully followed, crying out, "Where are the rebel villains? Why don't ye secure them?" Wild answered, that they were under the table; upon which the constable pulled out the juvenile offenders, neither of whom were above twelve years of age. The two boys now taken were committed to Newgate; but the fact being committed in the county of Surrey, they were afterwards removed to the Marshalsea Prison. The assizes coming on at Kingston, and Jones giving his evidence against his companions, before the grand jury, the bill was found, and the marshal indorsed his name on the back of it to have the honour of being an evidence against these monstrous house-breakers. On the trial, the nature of the fact was declared; but the parents of the offenders appeared, and satisfied the court, that the marshal was the occasion of the ruin of these boys, by taking them into the fields, and encouraging them in the stealing of pocket-books; and told him, on his affirming they were thieves, that he had made them such.

The judge observing the marshal's views were more to get the reward than to do justice, summed up the charge to the jury in favour of the boys, who were thereupon acquitted, and the marshal reprimanded. He was so enraged at this, and so angry with himself for not accu-

ing the boys of other crimes, that he immediately returned to London, and left his man to discharge the whole reckoning at Kingston.

A gentleman that had lost his watch when in company with a woman of the town, applied to a person belonging to the Compter, who recommended him to the buckle-maker, to procure the same; and the gentleman applying accordingly to him, and giving a description of the woman, the buckle-maker, a few days after traversing Fleet Street with his master in an evening, happened to meet with the female (as he apprehended by the description of the gentleman) who had stolen the watch, and, coming nearer, he was satisfied therein.

He told his master, that she was the very person described: to which the master answered, with an air of pleasure, "I am glad to find we have a prospect of something to-night to defray our expenses," and immediately with his man, seized the female and carried her to a public house, where, upon examination, she confessed it was in her power to serve the marshal in it; telling him, that if he would please to go with her home, or send his man, the watch would be returned, and a suitable reward for the trouble. The man asked his master his opinion, whether he thought he might pursue the woman with safety? To which he replied, Yes, for that he knew her; and giving hints of his following at a reasonable distance for his security, which he did with a great deal of precaution, as will appear; for the man proceeding with the female, she informed him that her husband, who had the watch about him, was at a tavern near White-Friars, and, if he would condescend to go thither, he might be furnished with it, without giving himself any further trouble, together with the reward he deserved.—To which the man consented, and coming to the tavern, she made inquiry for the company she had been with but a short space before; and being informed they were still in the house, she sent in word by the drawer, that the gentlewoman, who had been with them that evening, desired the favour to speak with them. The drawer going in, and delivering the message, immediately three or four gentlemen came from the room to the woman: she gave them

them to understand, that the marshal's man had accused her of stealing a watch, telling them she supposed it must be some other woman, who had assumed her name, and desired their protection; upon this the whole company sallied out, and attacked the marshal's man in a very violent manner, to make a rescue of the female, upbraiding him for degrading a gentlewoman of her reputation.

The marshal, observing the ill success of his man, and fearing the like discipline, made off, hugging himself that he had escaped the severe treatment he equally deserved with him.

The man in the struggle showed his resentment chiefly against the female; and after a long contest she was thrust out at the back door; and immediately the watch being called, he and the rest of the men were seized.

As they were going to the Compter, the marshal overtook them near Bow-church, and asked his man the occasion of his long absence, coming up to him in great haste; the man said, that he had been at the tavern with the woman, where he thought he saw him: the master answered, that indeed he was there, but seeing the confusion so great, he went off to call the watch and constables.

The marshal used his interest to get his man off, but to no purpose, he being carried to the Compter with the rest of the company, in order to make an agreement there.

The next morning the woman sent to her companions in the Compter, letting them know, that, if they could be released, the watch should be returned without any consideration, which was accordingly done, and a small present made to the marshal's man for smart money. They were now all discharged paying their fees.

The watch being now ready to be produced to the owner, the marshal insisted upon the greatest part of the reward, as being the greatest person in authority: the man declared it unreasonable, unless he had partook of the largest share of the bastinado. "But, however," says the marshal, "I have now an opportunity of playing my old game; I'll oblige the gentleman to give me ten guineas to save his reputation, which is so nearly con-

“cerned with a common prostitute.” But the gentleman knew too much of his character to be thus imposed upon, and would give him no more than what he promised, which was three guineas. The master at first refused, but his man (who had the most right to make a new contract) advising him to act cautiously, he at last agreed to accept the reward at first offered, giving his man only one guinea for his service and the cure of his wounds. This is a sufficient instance of the marshal’s cowardice and inhumanity.

One night the marshal and Wild being abroad in their walks, not far from the Temple, they discovered a clergyman standing against the wall, in an alley to which he had retired, as persons frequently do on account of modesty and decency. Immediately a woman of the town lying in wait for prey, brushed by, the clergyman saying aloud, “What does the woman want?” The marshal instantly rushed in upon them, and seized the clergyman, bidding his man secure the woman. The clergyman resisted, protesting his innocence (which his language to the woman confirmed), but finding it to no purpose, he at last desired that he might be permitted to go into an ironmonger’s house near; but the marshal refused, and dragged the clergyman to the end of Salisbury-court in Fleet-street, where he raised a mob about him; and two or three gentlemen that knew the parson, happening to come by, asked the mob what they were doing with him, telling them he was chaplain to a noble lord. The rough gentry answered, “Damn him, we believe he’s chaplain “to the devil, for we caught him with a whore.”

Hereupon the gentlemen desired the marshal to go to a tavern, that they might talk with him without noise and tumult, which he consented to. When they came into the tavern, the clergyman asked the marshal by what authority he thus abused him? The marshal replied, he was a city officer (pulling out his staff), and would have him to the Compter, unless he gave very good security for his appearance next morning, when he would swear, that he caught him with a whore.

The clergyman seeing him so bent upon perjury, which

which would very much expose him, sent for other persons to vindicate his reputation, who putting a purse of gold into the marshal's hand (which they found was the only way to deal with such a monster in iniquity), the clergyman was permitted to depart.

The marshal, being now ready for another adventure, going up Ludgate-hill, he observed a well-dressed woman walking before, whom he told Wild was a lewd woman, for that he saw her talking with a man. This was no sooner spoke but he seized her, and asked who she was? She made answer, that she was a bailiff's wife. "You are more like to be a whore," said the marshal, "and as such you shall go to the Compter."

Taking the woman through St. Paul's Church-yard, she desired liberty to send for some friends; but he would not comply with her request. He forced her into the Nag's Head tavern in Cheapside, where he presently ordered a hot supper and plenty of wine to be brought in; commanding the female to sit at a distance from him, and telling her, that he did not permit such vermin to sit in his presence, though he intended to make her pay the reckoning.

When the supper was brought to the table, he fell to it lustily, and would not allow the woman to eat any part of the supper with him, or to come near the fire, though it was extreme cold weather. When he had supped, he stared round, and applying himself to her, told her, that if he had been an informer, or such a fellow, she would have called for eatables and wine herself, and not have given him the trouble of direction, or else would have slipped a piece into his hand. Adding, "You may do what you please: but I can assure ye it is in my power, if I see a woman in the hands of informers, to discharge her, and commit them. You are not so ignorant, but you must guess my meaning." She replied, that she had money enough to pay for the supper, and about three half crowns more. This desirable answer being given, he ordered his attendant to withdraw, while he compounded the matter with her.

When Wild returned the gentlewoman was civilly asked to sit by the fire, and eat the remainder of the
supper,

supper, and in all respects treated very kindly, only with a pretended reprimand to give him better language whenever he should speak to her for the future. And, after another bottle drank at her expense, she was discharged. This is an excellent method to get a good supper gratis, and to fill an empty pocket.

The marshal, previous to his suspension, had daily meetings with the pick-pocket boys in Moorfields, and to treat them there plentifully with cakes and ale; offering them sufficient encouragement to continue their theft: and at a certain time it happened, that one of the boys, more cunning than his companions, having stolen an alderman's pocket book, and opening it, and finding several bank bills, he gave the marshal to understand, that it was worth a great deal beyond the usual price; and the notes being of considerable value, he insisted upon five pieces. The marshal told the boy, that five pieces was enough to break him at once; that if he gave him two guineas he would be sufficiently paid, but assured him, that if he had the good luck to obtain a handsome reward, he would make it up five pieces.

Upon this present encouragement and future expectation, the boy delivered up the pocket-book, and a few days afterwards, being informed that a very large reward had been given for the notes, he applied to the marshal for the remaining three guineas, according to promise; but all the satisfaction he had was, that he should be sent to the house of correction if he continued to demand it; the marshal telling him, that such rascals as he were ignorant how to dispose of their money.

This conniving at the intrigues of the pick-pockets, taking the stolen pocket books, and sending threatening letters to the persons that lost them, under pretence that they had been in company with lewd women, and extorting money from several persons, was the cause of the marshal's being suspended.

The infamous coadjutor of Wild, the most detestable villain of the two, having been fined twenty pounds and pillored for a crime too detestable to be named in these pages, left the latter once more alone to execute his plans of depredation on the public. When the thieves with whom

whom he was in league faithfully related to him the particulars of the robberies they had committed, and entrusted to him the disposal of their booties, he assured them that they might safely rely on him for protection against the vengeance of the law: and, indeed, it must be acknowledged, that in cases of this nature he would persevere in his endeavour to surmount very great difficulties rather than wilfully falsify his word.

Wild's artful behaviour, and the punctuality with which he discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination; insomuch, that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them, and that they should not be molested, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, but that their lives were absolutely in his power: but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: "I have given you my word that you should come and go in safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself, for if ever you see me again, you see an enemy."

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves will not be thought a very extraordinary matter, if it is considered that when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate, he was always desirous, and generally able to succeed. Such as complied with his measures, he would never interrupt; but, on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and if apprehended by any other person, he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His most usual method (in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more ease and expedition) was to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pretext that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public. When they were in prison he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent for them to relate to the court. When his accomplices were apprehended,

hended, and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile) for keeping the principal witnesses out of court ; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed in defect of evidence.

Jonathan was ever a most implacable enemy to those thieves who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantages. He was industrious to an extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice ; and being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance.

By subjecting those who incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law, he obtained the rewards offered for pursuing them to conviction ; greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe ; and, at the same time, established his character as being a man of great public utility.

It was the practice of Wild to give instructions to the thieves whom he employed, as to the manner in which they should conduct themselves ; and if they followed his direction, it was seldom that they failed of success. But if they neglected a strict observance of his rules, or were, through inadvertency or ignorance, guilty of any kind of mismanagement or error in the prosecution of the schemes he had suggested, it was to be understood almost as an absolute certainty that he would procure them to be convicted at the next sessions, deeming them to be unqualified for the profession of roguery.

He was frequently asked, how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers ; and his replies were always to this purpose :—“ My acquaintance among
“ thieves is very extensive, and when I receive informa-
“ tion of a robbery, I make inquiry after the suspected
“ parties, and leave word at proper places, that if the
“ goods are left where I appoint, the reward shall be paid,
“ and no questions asked. Surely, no imputation of guilt
“ can fall upon me ; for I hold no interviews with the
“ robbers, nor are the goods given into my possession.”

We

We shall now proceed to the relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages; and our account must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found: in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application, Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the chapel in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields on the following morning, during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the Piazzas of the chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman, named Knap, accompanied his mother to Sadler's Wells, on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked, about ten at night, near the wall of Gray's-Inn-Gardens, by five villains.—The young gentleman was immediately knocked down, and his mother, being exceedingly alarmed, called for assistance; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman, alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Rag.

In the evening of Sunday, April 8, Wild received intelligence that some of the above-named men were drinking with their prostitutes at a house kept by John Weatherly, in Newtoner's-lane. He went to Wea-

therly's, accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney-coach, and lodged him in the Round House.

White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man named James Aires was then at the Bell Inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the Inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken for that of Aires. Thurland was provided with two brace of pistols; but being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons, and taken into custody.

They went on the following night to a house in White-Horse-alley, Drury-lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of Thomas Middlethwaite, Esq.; but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss, and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.

In a short time after this, Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty-two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, foot-pads, and receivers of stolen effects; and in consequence thereof he was admitted an evidence for the crown.

Rag was convicted of a misdemeanor in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust hole belonging to the house of Thomas Powell, where, being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys, were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary, but as he did not enter the house, he was indicted for a misdemeanor in entering the yard with intent to steal. He was indicted in October, 1715, for a burglary, in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell, on the 24th of August; but he was acquitted of this charge.

White,

White, Thurland, and Chapman, were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig, on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow: White by discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound, of which she immediately died, March 31, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Russel for a burglary in the house of George Barklay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.

Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success, that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time.

Dun's confinement, at length, became exceedingly irksome to him, and he sent his wife to make inquiries respecting him, of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being apprehended. Upon her departure from Wild's he ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Blackfriars, and landed at the Falcon; but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water, and crossed to Whitefriars: observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, she imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man, and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid-lane, near the Bank-side, Southwark, and perceiving her enter a house, he marked the wall with chalk,

and then returned to his employer, with an account of the discovery he had made.

Wild, accompanied by a fellow named Abraham, a Jew, who acted the part he had done to the worthless marshal, one Riddlesden, and another man, went on the following morning, to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dun hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back-window on the second floor upon the roof of the pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol, and wounded Dun in the arm; in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard: after his fall Riddlesden discharged a pistol, and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dun was secured, and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions, he was soon after executed at Tyburn.

Riddlesden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business, and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel of Whitehall, and stole the communion plate. He was convicted of this offence, and received sentence of death; but, through the exertion of a powerful interest, a pardon was obtained, on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He went to America, but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter to an opulent merchant at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered, and committed to Newgate. His wife followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison. Her friends, however, being apprised of her unhappy situation, caused her to return home. He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and being permitted to transport himself again, the woman went with him to Philadelphia, under the character of his wife.

In consequence of a disagreement between them, Mrs. Revel returned, and took a public-house in Golden-lane; but what became of Riddlesden we have not been able to learn.

A thief

A thief of most infamous character, named Arnold Powel, being confined in Newgate, on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden-square, of property to a great amount, was visited by Jonathan, who informed him, that, in consideration of a sum of money, he would save his life; adding that if the proposal was rejected, he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him any injury, bid him defiance. Powel was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powel had committed a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick, near Fleet-ditch, he caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary, Powel sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself proposed, in consequence of which Powel was assured that his life should be preserved.

Upon the approach of the sessions, Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powel would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar; and no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; but after some time he was again set to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and as no accusation was adduced against him, he was necessarily dismissed; and the court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognizances to be estreated.

Powel was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity.

Powel put himself into a salivation, in order to avoid being brought to trial the next session; but notwithstanding

standing this stratagem, he was arraigned and convicted; and executed on the 20th of March, 1716-7.

At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining to the Cooper's Arms, on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villanies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence, as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718, an act was passed deeming every person guilty of a capital offence, who should accept a reward in consequence of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief.

It was the general opinion that the above law would effectually suppress the iniquitous practices of Wild; but after some interruptions to his proceedings, he devised means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success.

He now declined the custom of receiving money from the persons who applied to him; but upon the second or third time of calling, informed them, that all he had been able to learn respecting their business was, that if a sum of money was left at an appointed place, their property would be restored the same day.

Sometimes, as the person robbed was returning from Wild's house, he was accosted in the street by a man who delivered the stolen effects, at the same time producing a note expressing the sum that was to be paid for them.

In cases wherein he supposed danger was to be apprehended, he advised people to advertise, that whoever would bring the stolen goods to Jonathan Wild should be rewarded, and no questions asked them.

In the two first instances it could not be proved that he either saw the thief, received the goods, or accepted of a reward; and in the latter case he acted agreeable to the directions of the injured party, and there appeared no reason to criminate him as being in confederacy with the felons.

When he was asked what would satisfy him for his trouble, he told the persons who had recovered their property, that what he had done was without any interested view, but merely from a principle of doing good; that therefore he made no claim; but if he accepted a present,

sent, he should not consider it as being his due, but as an instance of generosity, which he should acknowledge accordingly.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newtoner's-lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkable industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who entrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

By too strict an application to business, Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank notes to the amount of seven thousand pounds. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pick-pockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings, at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes, Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham, he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer.

These three pick-pockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank-note for a thousand pounds in the lining of his coat. On his arrival at Maryland, he procured cash for the note, and having purchased his freedom, went to New York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

Wild's business would not permit him to remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open his office in Newtoner's Lane for more than three months.

About a week after the return of Wild from Dulwich, a mercer in Lombard-street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn, a box containing goods to the amount of two hundred pounds. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of whom, being more genteelly dressed than his companions, accosted the man in the following manner: "If you are willing to earn six-pence,

pence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roquelaure I left at the bar; but, lest the waiter should scruple giving it to you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burthen upon this bulk, and I will take care of it till you return; but be sure you make haste." The man went to the tavern, and having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he inquired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, "since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch, which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token." What was called a gold watch being examined, proved to be only pewter lacquered. In consequence of this discovery, the porter hastened back to where he had left the box; but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found.

The porter was, with reason, apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and, in order to excuse his folly, he determined upon the following stratagem: he rolled himself in the mud, and then went home, saying he had been knocked down, and robbed of the goods.

The proprietor of the goods applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it, if he would send for his servant. A messenger was dispatched for the porter, and, upon his arrival, Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition. "Your master (said Abraham) has just been here concerning the box you lost; and he desired that you might be sent for, in order to communicate the particulars of the robbery. What kind of people were the thieves, and in what manner did they take the box away?" In reply, the man said, "Why, two or three fellows knocked me down, and then carried off the box." Hereupon Abraham told him, that "if they knocked him down, there was but little chance of the property being recovered, since that offence rendered them liable to be hanged. But (continued he) let me prevail upon you to speak the truth; for, if you persist in a refusal, be assured we shall discover

ver it by some other means. Pray, do you recollect nothing about a token? Were you not to fetch a roque-laur from a tavern, and did not you produce a gold watch as a token to induce the waiter to deliver it?"—Astonished at Abraham's words, the porter declared "he believed he was a witch," and immediately acknowledged in what manner he had lost the box.

One of the villains concerned in the above transaction, lived in the house formerly inhabited by Wild, in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate. To this place Jonathan and Abraham repaired, and when they were at the door, they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife, during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door, and Wild saying he was under the necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the Compter.

On the following day, the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house, and desired to have a private interview with him. Observing one of the women to be with child, he imagined she might want a father to her expected issue; for it was a part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of the real fathers of children, born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shown into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner: "I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice, you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousand." Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprise so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: "My plan is this: you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood Street, near Bishopsgate. This house is kept by a cane-chair maker, named John Cooke, who has a lodger, an ancient maiden lady, immensely rich; and she keeps her money in a box in her apartment:

she is now gone in the country to fetch more. One of the men must find an opportunity of getting into the shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a saw-pit there: he may let his companions in when the family are retired to rest. But it will be particularly necessary to secure two stout apprentices and a boy, who lay in the garret. I wish, however, that no murder may be committed." Upon this Wright said, "Phoo! phoo! when people engage in matters of this sort, they must manage as well as they can, and so as to provide for their own safety." Dodwell now resumed her discourse to Jonathan. "The boys now secured, no kind of difficulty will attend getting possession of the old lady's money, she being from home and her room under that where the boys sleep. In the room facing that of the old lady, Cooke and his wife lay: he is a man of remarkable courage; great caution, therefore, must be observed respecting him; and, indeed, I think it would be as well to knock him on the head; for then his drawers may be rifled, and he is never without money. A woman and a child lie under the room belonging to the old lady, but I hope no violence will be offered to them."

Having heard the above proposal, Wild took the women into custody, and lodged them in Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle of virtue or justice, but that he declined engaging in the iniquitous scheme, from an apprehension that their design was to draw him into a snare.

Dodwell had lived five months in Mr. Cooke's house, and though she paid no rent, he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner to oppress her. Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanor, and being found guilty, they were sentenced each to suffer six months imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace, and other property of considerable value, which John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington-Green; but Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded

excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice.

Being informed that he lodged at a public-house in Bishopsgate Street, Wild went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascending the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room; but was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man in whom he was in pursuit had escaped. In the mean time Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and descending to the kitchen, where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff, and they advised him to conceal himself in the coal-hole.

Jonathan coming out of the ale-house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, he inquired of the master, who was a dyer, whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative, saying, he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house, which they denied; but informing them that the man he sought was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole.

Having procured a candle, Wild and his attendants searched the place without effect, and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have escaped into the street; on which the dyer said, that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must still be in the house, for he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge; and he advised Wild to search the cellar again. They now all went into the cellar, and after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel, used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington-Green, upbraided him as being guilty of ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged.

Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation

commodation might be effected, directed Wild to go to his lodging, and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompense him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but as Butler had been apprehended in a public manner, the other was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who committed him for trial. He was tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; but by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard, and imagining that it contained property of value, he hastened home, and instructed one of the thieves he employed, to carry it off. The man he employed in this matter was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so as exactly to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed.

Mr. Jarvis, a whip-maker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss, than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving ten guineas. Some time after, a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed, he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars of the trunk. Mr. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution, but all apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated by the decease of Mr. Jarvis.

Wild being much embarrassed in endeavouring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a variety of schemes: but at length he adopted that which follows: he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief named Roger Johnson.

Ostend was the port where this vessel principally traded;

traded; but when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c. and these commodities were landed in the night, without adding any increase in the business of the revenue officers. This trade was continued about two years, when five pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson, for running a great quantity of various kinds of goods.

In consequence of this the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l*. and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long-lane, concerning the division of some booty. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter had no sooner recovered his liberty, than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods was there found. Wild arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day he procured bail. Edwards determined to wreak his revenge upon Johnson, and for some time industriously sought for him in vain; but meeting him accidentally in Whitechapel-road, he gave him into the custody of a peace-officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of an opportunity of effecting an escape.

Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks; at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1725, and apprehended

prehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate, on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail, or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information:

I. That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop-lifters, and other thieves.

II. That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director, and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

III. That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service: and likewise other moving detachments to attend at court, on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

IV. That the persons employed by him were for the most part felons convict, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired; and that he made choice of them to be his agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them, as he pleased.

V. That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there are now informations for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces, and guineas.

VI. That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as of writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above-mentioned convicted felons.

VII. That

VII. That in order to carry on these vile practices, and to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce, when he himself was concerned in robbing.

VIII. That he had, under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods; and also a ship for carrying off jewels, watches, and other valuable goods, to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

IX. That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

X. That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

XI. And lastly, it appears, that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government.

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted: but it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday the 12th of April, Wild by counsel moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions, and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in court, purporting, that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him;

him; that he knew not what offence was charged against him, and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This was opposed by the counsel for the crown, who urged, that it would be improper to defer the trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

The prisoner informed the court that his witnesses were — Hays, at the Pack-horse, on Turnham Green, and — Wilson, a clothier, at Frome; adding, that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony upon a person named Stretham. Wild's counsel moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner. The counsel for the prosecution observed, that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgences. Follard and Butler were, at length, bound each in the penalty of 500*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

Saturday, May the 15th, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catherine Stretham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catharine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catharine, on the 10th of March, ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of "A list of Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted of several Robberies on the High-Way: and also for Burglary and House-Breaking; and also for returning from Transportation; by Jonathan Wild." This list contained the names of
thirty-

thirty-five for robbing on the high-way ; twenty-two for house-breaking ; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following *Nota Bene* :

“Several others have been also convicted for the like crimes, but, remembering not the persons’ names who had been robbed, I omit the criminals’ names.

“Please to observe, that several others have been also convicted for shop-lifting, picking of pockets, &c. by the female sex, which are capital crimes, and which are too tedious to be inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing of being exposed.

“In regard therefore of the numbers above convicted, some, that have yet escaped justice, are endeavouring to take away the life of the said

“JONATHAN WILD.”

The prisoner being put to the bar, requested that the witnesses might be examined apart, which was complied with. Henry Kelly deposed, that by the prisoner’s direction he went, in company with Margaret Murphy, to the prosecutor’s shop under pretence of buying some lace ; that he stole a tin box, and gave it to Murphy in order to deliver to Wild, who waited in the street for the purpose of receiving their booty, and rescuing them if they should be taken into custody ; that they returned together to Wild’s house, where the box being opened was found to contain eleven pieces of lace ; that Wild said he could afford to give no more than five guineas, as he should not be able to get more than ten guineas for returning the goods to the owner ; that he received, as his share, three guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the five guineas.

Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of the former witness.*

Catharine Stetham, the elder, deposed, that between three and four in the afternoon of the 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house, pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace ; that she showed them two or three parcels, to the quality and price of which they objected ; and that in about three hours after they

* Margaret Murphy was executed March 27, 1728, for stealing plate.

had left the shop, she missed a tin box containing a quantity of lace, the value of which she estimated at 50l.

The prisoner's counsel observed, that it was their opinion he could not be legally convicted, because the indictment positively expressed that *he stole* the lace in the house, whereas it had been proved in evidence that he was at a considerable distance when the fact was committed. They admitted that he might be liable to conviction as an accessory before the fact, or guilty of receiving the property knowing it to be stolen, but conceived that he could not be deemed guilty of a capital felony unless the indictment declared (as the act directs) that he did *assist, command, or hire*.

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried, and in summing up the evidence his lordship observed, that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but that as a similar case was not to be found in the law books, it became his duty to act with great caution; he was not perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the counsel for the crown could be put upon the indictment; and, as the life of a fellow creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict NOT GUILTY.

Wild was indicted a second time for an offence committed during his confinement in Newgate. The indictment being opened by the counsel for the crown, the following clause in an act passed in the 4th year of Geo. I. was ordered to be read:

“And whereas there are divers persons who have secret acquaintance with felons, and who make it their business to help persons to their stolen goods, and by that means gain money from them, which is divided between them and the felons, whereby they greatly encourage such offenders. Be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any person taketh money or reward, directly or indirectly, under pretence, or upon account of helping any person or persons to any stolen goods or chattels, every such person so taking money or reward as aforesaid (unless such person do apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, such felon who stole the same, and give evidence against him) shall be guilty of felony,

felony, according to the nature of the felony committed in stealing such goods, and in such and the same manner, as if such offender had stolen such goods and chattels, in the manner, and with such circumstances, as the same were stolen.”

Catherine Stetham deposed to the following effect: “A box of lace being stolen out of my shop, on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same day to the prisoner’s house, in order to employ him in recovering my goods; but not finding him at home, I advertised them, offering a reward of fifteen guineas, and saying no questions should be asked. The advertisement proved ineffectual: I therefore went again to the prisoner’s house, and by his desire gave the best description that I was able of the persons I suspected to be the robbers; and, promising to make inquiry after my property, he desired me to call again in two or three days. I attended him a second time, when he informed me that he had learnt something concerning my goods, and expected more particular information in a short time. During this conversation we were joined by a man, who said he had reason to suspect that one Kelly, who had been tried for circulating plated shillings, was concerned in stealing the lace. I went to the prisoner again on the day he was apprehended, and informed him that though I had advertised a reward of no more than fifteen, I would give twenty, or twenty-five guineas, rather than not recover my property; upon which he desired me not to be in too great a hurry, and said the people who had the lace were gone out of town, but that he would contrive to foment a disagreement between them, by which means he should be enabled to recover the goods, on more easy terms. He sent me word, on the 10th of March, that if I would attend him in Newgate, and bring ten guineas with me, the goods should be returned. I went to the prisoner, who desired a person to call a porter, and then gave me a letter, saying, it was the direction he had received where to apply for the lace. I told him I could not read, and gave the letter to the man he had sent for, who appeared to be a ticket-porter. The prisoner then told me I must give the porter ten guineas, that he might pay the people who
had

had my goods, otherwise they would not return them. I gave the money, and the man went out of the prison; but in a short time he returned with a box sealed up; though it was not the box I lost, I opened it, and found all my lace, excepting one piece. I asked the prisoner what satisfaction he expected; and he answered, not a farthing; I have no interested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall soon be able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you, I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment."

The prisoner's counsel argued, that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelly, and herself, were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was founded; for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The counsel for the crown observed, that from the evidence adduced, no doubt could remain of the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments enforced on each side, and was of opinion, that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn, on Monday, the 24th of May, 1725, along with Robert Harpham.

Wild, when he was under sentence of death, frequently declared, that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning the stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great, as justly to entitle him

him to the royal mercy. He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate, he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends, at Wolverhampton, to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction, who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him, that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious, that he had not enforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices, in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and being asked whether he knew the cause thereof, he said, he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying, that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect, but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the ordinary the meaning of the words "cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from the body? He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered, he inquired of the ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans, who had put a period to their own lives, were so honourably mentioned by historians. He was informed, that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice,

cowardice, who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the providence of Heaven; and that the Christian doctrines condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime; but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum: however, on account of the largeness of the dose, and his having fasted for a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits, that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises, and taking him by the arms they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum. Though he was somewhat recovered, he was nearly in a state of insensibility; and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution, the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain, that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn, he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were at length so enraged at the indulgence shown him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their demands, and when he began to prepare for the execution, the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning, the remains

mains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Church-yard: but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons, as it was supposed). At midnight, a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton a son about 19 years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition, that it was judged prudent to confine him while his father was conveyed to Tyburn, lest he should create a tumult, and prove the cause of mischief among the populace. Soon after the death of his father, he accepted a sum of money to become a servant in one of our plantations.

Besides the woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others lived with him under the pretended sanction of matrimony; the first was Mary Mil-liner; the second Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third Sarah Grigson, alias Perrin; the fourth Elizabeth Man, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain, married some time after the death of Wild.

History cannot furnish an instance of such complicated villainy as was shown in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities, which, had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course, would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society; but it is to be lamented, that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life disposed him to adopt the maxims of the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.

During his apprenticeship, Wild was observed to be fond of reading; but as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way: and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin of both their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Deism and Atheism; and the sentiments he thus early contracted, he strictly adhered to nearly till the period of his dissolution.

Voluminous

Voluminous writings were formerly beyond the purchase of persons in the inferior classes of life, but the great encouragement that has of late years been given to the publication of weekly numbers, has so liberally diffused the streams of knowledge, that but few even of the lower ranks of mankind, can be sensible of any impediment to the gratification of the desire of literary acquirements.

Wild trained up and instructed his dependants in the practice of villainy; and when they became the objects of his displeasure, he laboured with unremitting assiduity to procure their deaths. Thus his temporal and private interest sought gratification at the expense of every religious and moral obligation. We must conceive it to be impossible for a man acknowledging the existence of an Almighty Being, to implore his attention upon devising the means of corrupting his fellow-creatures, cutting them off, "even in the blossom of their sins;" but the Atheist, having nothing after this world either to hope or fear, is only careful to secure himself from detection; and the success of one iniquitous scheme naturally induces him to engage in others, and the latter actions are generally attended with circumstances of more aggravated guilt than the former.

There is a principle implanted in our nature, that will exert itself when we are approaching to a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full confidence in the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our deserts or demerits. Thus it happened to the miserable subject of these pages, who, when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously inquired into the meaning of several texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force that reflection became intolerable: instead of repenting of his enormous crimes, he employed his last moments that were enlightened by reason (the distinguished characteristic of humanity) in meditating the means of self-destruction.

EDWARD

EDWARD BURNWORTH,

*WILLIAM BLEWITT, EMANUEL DICKENSON,
THOMAS BERRY, JOHN LEGEE, JOHN HIGGS,
and ——— MARJORAM, another gang of murderers and
robbers.*

NOTWITHSTANDING Jonathan Wild, in the early career of his villainy, had been active in bringing a number of thieves to condign punishment, yet London and its environs were never more infested with common depredators than about this time.

Burnworth and his gang seem to have risen to notoriety on the downfall of Wild; for about the time of his apprehension, they were committing the most daring robberies; but they, however, did not survive him quite a single year. The captain of this gang was born in Moorfields, London. His father was a painter, and placed his son Edward apprentice to a buckle-maker in Grub-street; in which situation he did not remain long, having given himself up to the company of loose and disorderly young men. His initiation into vicious habits took place at an infamous place of low diversion, called the Ring, near his father's place of residence, and where, it appears, he excelled in the vulgar art of cudgel-playing. He soon commenced pickpocket, and through the gradations in villainy, which we have already described, became a general thief. As a pickpocket, he frequented every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison, from which he found means to escape, and renewed his former occupation, but with more circumspection, usually lounging about the fields near London during the daytime, and returning to town at night in search of prey. He was a remarkably daring villain, and constantly carried pistols about him, to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection. Going into a public-house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him that Quilt Arnold, one of Jonathan Wild's men, who had been seeking him some days, was

then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone; and presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance, Arnold having been a brother thief. Burnworth then called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gunpowder in it, compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future. He was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft. William Blewitt, another of this gang, was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a glover; but before he had served above three years of his time, he associated with ill company, and became a pickpocket and housebreaker. Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; in consequence of which he was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread, and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed to any distance. Blewitt having discovered their intention, disclosed it to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewitt his liberty, as a reward for the information.* But he was no sooner at large, than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate. At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation, and being convicted, received sentence of death; but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river: on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America; when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth, Berry, Legee, and Higgs, the three last having been thieves from their infancy. At this time there was a gin-shop kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a man named Ball, whose character was

* This was assuming a power which was never given to any captain of a vessel.

similar to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan. Previous to this, while they were drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended; and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain. They soon executed their design, and robbed the house of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen-house, at that time a public-house of ill-fame; but, on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River. The following day, while they were carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick-lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their clothes. On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell Bridewell happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper, whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other rogues waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols. This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them, on which Burnworth joined his companions, who kept together, and facing the people retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them. Thus they retreated as far as Battle-bridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Blackfriars, took a boat and crossed the Thames. Having landed at the Bank-

side, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute characters. Here they continued drinking some time, and then went into St. George's-fields, where Burnworth re-proposed the murder of Ball, on account of the threat that he had issued. All the company readily agreed, except Higgs, who said he would have no concern in murder: however, the others forced him with them: it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, and Higgs waited at the door, while the rest went in. Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did; he no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery, in intending to betray his old acquaintance. As these desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with just apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly entreated that they would not murder him; but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while thus begging for his life. The murder was no sooner perpetrated, than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewitt, supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues;" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection. Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him, as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, an old acquaintance, whom they had just met, interceded for his life, which was granted, on condition that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage. They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's-head tavern, in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted in different gangs, to commit separate robberies. Some days after this, Dickenson, Berry, and Blewitt, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich,

Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat to Holland. In the meantime, Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but his brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public-house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder, among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman, and two of the king's messengers, being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate. Still Burnworth, and the rest of his associates, continued to defy the laws, in the most open manner. Having stopped the Earl of Harborough's chair, during broad daylight, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair, and knocked down one of the villains, while the Earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight: but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them. The number of daring robberies which were now daily committed were so alarming, that the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang. Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public-house in Whitecross-street one night, when a gentleman went in and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he, apprehending that some of his accomplices would become an evidence, if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the Lord Mayor. By this time the evening was far advanced, on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he knew; and informing the Lord Mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day. The circumstance of Majoram having
turned

evidence being now the public topic, John Barton, a fellow who had been sometime connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's-hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the Lord Mayor, to fire at him; but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprise it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape. About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London, but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston, in Surry. In the mean time, Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him. He broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes; in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody; notwithstanding he still appeared at large, and gave the following among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public-house, in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it, holding a pistol in his hand, by way of protection; he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern. At this time he kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy, by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended, she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution. Shrove Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public-house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer, and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple;

staple; at that moment six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great coat. Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension; a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house, which being communicated to the magistrates, constables were appointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts. Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: having been furnished with an iron crow, he engaged some of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing. On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the gaolers came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before the criminals could be got out of their cells. This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room known by the name of the bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison: but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained to the floor of the condemned hole. Application was made to the secretary of state, to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewitt, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General, that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction. The ambassador, on receiving the necessary instructions, made the application, and orders were issued accordingly; in consequence

consequence of which Blewitt was apprehended in Rotterdam, but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewitt was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement. They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they reached the Nore, they were met by two of the king's messengers, who conducted them up the river. On the arrival of the vessel, they were put into a boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot-guards. On sight of Burnworth, they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland. On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surry, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Their insolence on leaving Newgate was unparalleled—they told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey; and likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and during their journey they behaved with great indifference, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it. A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewitt had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston, on which Blewitt gave him a shilling to pay the expense of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise, which it is affirmed, the boy actually did. On their arrival at Kingston, they were put in the prison called the
Stockhouse,

Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor; and on the following day, bills of indictment were found against them, they were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond and Judge Denton, but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead, unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead, but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death. Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred, three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast. The high-sheriff who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead, to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself, by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into court, he was tried, and convicted with his companions. They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves by recounting some particulars of their robberies to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies, but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper. On passing sentence the learned judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape. Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine, to have made the keepers sleep; and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration; but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive. A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that, "If he did not see him buried in a decent manner, he would meet him after

death in a dark entry, and pull off his nose." When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way Blewitt saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him. Dickenson and Blewitt appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said, they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to their fatal end. They suffered April 12, 1726. After execution, their bodies were brought to the new gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewitt were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common; but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country, in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day. Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty, of course, when his accomplices were convicted: but in a few days afterwards he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and being indicted for privately stealing, was convicted, and received sentence of death; but in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the above-mentioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.

CATHARINE

CATHARINE HAYES.

WOMAN OF TTEURN, MAY 2, 1720, FOR THE MURDER OF HER



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CATHARINE HAYES,

BURNT ALIVE AT TYBURN, MAY 9, 1726, FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

WE give the history of the enormous sins and dreadful sufferings of this abominable woman just as they came to our hands—too shocking for a single comment.

Catharine Hayes was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her parents till she was about fifteen years old, and then, having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London. Her person being rather engaging, and some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters, at Great Ombersley in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time. On being dismissed by these officers, she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was managed in the following manner: Catharine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated. At this time it happened that the officers, by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester, and hearing of her marriage, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army. Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the whole transaction to his father, who, though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately

obtained his liberty. The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings; but considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event. Mr. Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself; and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony: but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catharine followed him thither. He had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, as it happened in the time of war, was attended with an expense of 60*l*. On the return of young Hayes and his wife, the father gave them an estate of 10*l*. per annum, to which he afterwards added another of 16*l*. which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of an honest, well-disposed man; he treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition: but he had much more reason to complain of her disposition, for she was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours. The elder Mr. H. observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however, was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to come to London, after they had been married about six years. On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal-trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges, for at this time the trade of pawnbroking was followed by any one at pleasure, it having been then subject to no regulation. Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among
her

her neighbours; and, indeed, her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him, than to kill a dog. At length her husband finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-court-road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-road, since called Oxford-road. Here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off housekeeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot. Thomas Billings, a journeyman tailor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes, by her former connections, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes, and the husband having gone into the country on business, his wife and this man indulged themselves in every species of extravagance. On Hayes's return, some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance, on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit. She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied. At this period, Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country; and as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his interest in procuring him some employment. After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying

stroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed. However, she artfully urged, that "he was an atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children; one of which he buried under a pear tree, and the other under an apple tree." She likewise said, that her husband's death would put her in possession of 1500*l.* of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder. Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humour. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity. This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes, went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this too, at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for his launching into eternity. Mrs. H. had therefore recourse to her former arguments, urging, that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconded all she said, and declaring he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers. Thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer. When he had
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taken a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed. When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that now was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly, Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently, that he fractured his skull. At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him. A woman, named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, her child, and herself. Catharine had a ready answer to this: she said, some company had visited them and were grown merry, but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied. The murderers then consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket-knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood. This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstand-
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ing all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning ; though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed, that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife, and washed it. When the head was cut off, this diabolical woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones ; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink. This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood ; but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter ; to which Mrs. Hayes answered, that her husband was going a journey, and, with incredible dissimulation, she affected to take her leave of him, and, as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour. By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head ; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream ; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects. The murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers. On the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman, named Robinson, was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the dock, observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part. The lighterman now said, that he had heard something thrown into the dock ; and the magistrates and parish officers having assembled, gave strict orders that the
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most diligent search should be made after the body, which, however, was not found till some time afterwards; for, when the murderers had conversed together, on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes had proposed that it should be put into a box and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them into two blankets, carried them into a pond near Marylebone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door for them. In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed; after which it was put on a pole in the church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public.* Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high

* It was formerly customary to make persons suspected of murder touch the murdered body, for the discovery of their guilt or innocence.

This way of finding murderers was practised in Denmark, by King Christianus II. and permitted all over his kingdom; the occasion whereof is this: certain gentlemen being on an evening together in a stove, or tavern, fell out among themselves, and from words grew to blows, (the candles being out,) insomuch that one of them was stabbed with a poniard. Now the murderer was unknown, by reason of the number, although the person stabbed accused a pursuivant of the king's, who was one of the company.

The king, to find out the homicide, caused them all to come together in the stove; and standing round the corpse, he commanded that they should, one after another, lay their right hand on the slain gentleman's naked breast; swearing that they had not killed him. The gentlemen did so, and no sign appeared against them; the pursuivant only remained, who, condemned before his own conscience, went first of all, and kissed the dead man's feet, but as soon as he had laid his hand upon his breast, the blood gushed forth in abundance, both out of his wound and his nostrils: so that, urged by this evident accusation, he confessed the murder, and was, by the king's own sentence, immediately beheaded.

Hence the origin of the practice, which was so common in many of the countries in Europe, for finding out unknown murderers.

constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might on the following night be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs. The head being exposed on the pole, so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people, of all ranks, went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who having looked at it with great attention, said, he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted: and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she said, that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble, on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair. A journeyman tailor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned perfectly assured that it was so. As Billings worked at this very shop in Monmouth-street, one of these journeymen observed to him, that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him. On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow-on-the-Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got; to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance. On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mr. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said, that the public conversation was wholly engrossed

engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's church-yard. Hereupon Catharine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day. Wood coming from Harrow-on-the-Hill on the following day, Catharine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money. After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon named Westbrook was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrefying, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to take a view of it, which was accordingly done. Soon after this, Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, whom she continued to supply with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband. A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond; which bond Catharine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal. Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place. In the mean time incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingland whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes

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might help her to ascertain it. Mr. Hayes not being visible for a considerable time, his friends could not help making inquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catharine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret:—"Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance; but he, not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded."—This method for accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her, if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding, that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby inquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said, to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him. The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them, that Mr. Longmore should call on Catharine, and have some conversation; but not let her know that Ashby had been with him, for they supposed by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact. Accordingly, Longmore went to Catharine, and inquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said, she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied, that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. "No, (she replied) it is much worse than that." "Why, (said Longmore) has he murdered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative; and desiring him to walk into
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another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby ; but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he was retired to Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself. It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore, that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up on suspicion of being a highwayman, and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure his discharge. She allowed the justice of this remark, but said, that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said that he was once taken into custody on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate, but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed, that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority, for that the law required that two parties should bail a person charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway. In the course of conversation, Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession. To which she replied, that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sewed within the lining of his coat. She added, that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings, and bring her away. Mrs. Springate having been interrogated by Longmore, averred the truth of all that Catharine had said, and added, that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife : but Mr. Longmore said this must be false, for, to his knowledge, he was remarkably tender and indulgent to her. Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said, that from the difference of the stories Catharine had told them, he had little doubt but that poor Hayes had been murdered. Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life-guards, and nearly related to the deceased, and to communicate their suspicions to him, but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster, and survey the head with more care and attention

tion than they had hitherto done. On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had, in part, owned the head as that of her husband, but she was not so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so, and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes. On their return, therefore, they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made. A brother of Mr. Longmore coming in at this juncture, listened to their conversation, and remarked, that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes, at the expiration of two or three days, and make inquiries after her husband, similar to those which had been made by the other gentlemen. To this Longmore's brother urged his objections, observing, that as they had reason to their suspicions so well founded, it would be very ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape, if they should hear they were suspected; and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody. This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it; and going soon afterwards to Justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, and the reasons on which they were founded. The magistrate immediately granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catharine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes; and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person. Hereupon, having procured the assistance of two officers of the life-guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's, the distiller, (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night. As they were going up stairs, without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no further opposition was made to their proceedings. The

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broken open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes, and she did so in little more than a minute, when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody. At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked if they had been sleeping together, to which Catharine replied "No;" and said that Billings had been mending his stockings. On this the justice observed, that "his sight must be extremely good, as there were neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door." Some of the parties remaining below, to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the justice, and took Mrs. Springate into custody, and they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert. This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of any thing respecting the murder, they were separately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gate-house, Billings to New-Prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-fields Bridewell.—When the peace officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catharine to her examination, she earnestly desired to see the head, and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's, and no sooner was the head shown to her, than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head! It is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it.—Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed it several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair; and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit, and on her recovery was conducted

ducted to Mr. Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties. On the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marylebone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body. Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts of the body wrapped in a blanket, but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt. Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence; but the magistrates paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Springate till he should be taken into custody. On the morning of the succeeding Sunday he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed, when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and inquired for her; when the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody; however, their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so; but, unwilling that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green Dragon, in King-street, on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him to direct him to the place. The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder. He was immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, who conducted him to the house of Justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell for farther examination. On his arrival at the prison he was informed that the body had been found; and not doubt-
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ting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he acknowledged the particulars of the murder, and signed his confession. It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man owned that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations. His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a serjeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed. A gentleman, named Mercer, having visited Mrs. Hayes in Newgate, the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings, and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt were such, that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who, being carried before Justice Lambert, made a confession, agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood, and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony. Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate; and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alledged that Mr. Hayes had been an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased. In the history of this woman there is a strange mystery. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so, but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To

some people she would affirm he was the son of Mr. Hayes, born after marriage: but his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune: and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son. Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was, that he had lived with a country shoemaker who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a tailor. It is probable that she discovered him to be her son, when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London; and as some persons, who came from the same part of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farm-house, and supported at the expense of the parish, it may be presumed that he was dropped in that manner by his unnatural mother. Thomas Wood was born near Ludlow, in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct, when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public-house for the support of her children, of whom this Thomas was the eldest, and he behaved so dutifully to his mother, that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt. He was equally diligent abroad and at home; for when the business of the house was insufficient to employ him, he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family. On attaining years of maturity he engaged himself as a waiter at an inn in the country, from thence he removed to other inns, and in all his places preserved a fair character. At length he came to London, but being afraid of being impressed, as already mentioned, obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed on him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his benefactor. Billings and Wood having already made confessions, and being penetrated with the thought of the heinous nature of their offence, determined to plead guilty to

to the indictments against them: but Mrs. Hayes having made no confession, flattered herself there was a chance of her being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate. The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her Guilty.—The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt according to the then law for petit treason, alledging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the court, that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged, that having made so full and free a confession, they hoped they should not be hung in chains: but to this they received no answer.—After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hole, he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman to assist him in his devotions, he confessed he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed; however, he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law. At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others prevaricated much in his answers to the questions put to him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty. The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was somewhat similar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the design. On the day of her death she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marybone fields. When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round

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her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burnt for petit treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her, but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes in less than three hours.* They suffered at Tyburn, May 9, 1726.

RICHARD SAVAGE, Esq. (the celebrated Poet, Son of the Earl of Rivers and the unnatural Countess of Macclesfield;) *JAMES GREGORY, & WILLIAM MERCHANT, Esqrs.*

MURDERERS.

HARD, indeed, must be the heart which refuses the tribute of a tear to the memory of the truly unfortunate Richard Savage, one of the best of poets—one of the most oppressed of men. His name, however, is rescued from shame and oblivion by the celebrated Dr. Johnson, in his *Lives of the British Poets*. The learned will ever revere the memory of Savage; and to those who may not have

* Until the thirtieth year of the reign of King George III. this punishment was inflicted on women convicted of murdering their husbands, which crime is denominated Petit Treason. It has frequently from some accident happening in strangling the malefactor, produced the horrid effects above related. In the reign of Mary (the cruel) this death was commonly practised upon the objects of her vengeance; and many bishops, rather than deny their religious opinions, were burnt, without any previous strangulation. It was high time that this part of the sentence, the type of barbarism, should be dispensed with. The punishment now inflicted for this most unnatural and abhorred crime, is hanging; but once convicted, a woman need never look for mercy.

ready

ready access to the doctor's works, we shall make an humble attempt to shew a man of uncommon genius, on whom fickle fortune never deigned to smile—never bestowed the smallest share of the vast worldly possessions of his unnatural parents.

The reader, then, will surely credit us, when we express much concern that our duty compels us to name such a man amidst the most hardened criminals. But, there is a great difference in the shade of sin, and though Mr. Savage was implicated in a murder, yet its commission can scarce be said to reflect turpitude on his character. Though no *malice propense*, which alone constitutes the crime of wilful murder, was imputed to him or his inebriated companions; and though his moral conduct had not otherwise been impeached, yet a jury certainly said, that Savage was guilty of murder; and, with other criminals at the bar of the Old Bailey, he was sentenced to die. It will be found that the fatal deed was the effect of a debauch, too frequent with thoughtless young men, and that he and his companions were hurried into its perpetration while the senses were overpowered by intoxication in the midnight hour. The circumstances attending this shocking transaction were these:

Mr. Savage, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Merchant, three gentlemen of good education, accidentally came at a late hour, much disguised in liquor, to Robinson's coffee-house at Charing-cross, and went into a room where a Mr. Sinclair and other company were drinking. Merchant entering first, kicked down the table; and Savage and Gregory drawing their swords, Mr. Nuttal desired them to put them up, but they refused.

A scuffle now ensued, in which Mr. Sinclair received a mortal wound, and was heard to say, "I am a dead man;" soon after which the candles were extinguished.

Another witness deposed, that as he and some other company were on the point of leaving the house, the prisoners came in, when Merchant kicked down the table, and Gregory going up to the deceased, said, "D— ye, you rascal, deliver your sword; on which swords were drawn,

drawn, and the deceased wounded, as above-mentioned: that the deceased had his sword drawn when the wound was given by Savage; but that he held it with the point down towards the ground. Neither this deponent nor the former observed that Merchant had any sword.

There were several other witnesses to prove the fact; but it may be proper to mention how it happened that the parties accused came to the house where it occurred. Mr. Savage had a lodging at Richmond, and another at London; and having come to town to pay off the latter, and casually meeting with Gregory and Merchant, two gentlemen with whom he had been acquainted for some time past, they went to a coffee-house, where they drank till late in the evening. Savage would have engaged a bed at the coffee-house, but there not being accommodations for him, he and his friends went into the street, proposing to spend the night as they could, and in the morning to walk to Richmond.

Strolling about they saw a light in Robinson's coffee-house, into which they entered, and the fatal consequence ensued that we have already recited.

The perpetrators of this rash action having left the house, some soldiers were sent for, by whom they were taken into custody, and lodged in the round-house; and in the morning were carried before a magistrate, who committed them to the Gate-house; but Mr. Sinclair dying on the following day, they were sent to Newgate.

The deceased was attended by a clergyman, who declared that he said he was stabbed before he had time to draw his sword; and this testimony was confirmed by that of other witnesses.

When the evidence was summed up, the court observed to the jury, that, "As the deceased and his companions
"were in possession of the room, if the prisoners were the
"aggressors, by coming into that room, kicking down
"the table, and immediately thereupon drawing their
"swords, without provocation, &c. it was murder, not
"only in him who gave the wound, but in those who
"aided and abetted him."

Several persons of distinction appeared in behalf of the prisoners, and gave them the character of good-natured, quiet,

quiet, and peaceable men; but it was hereupon observed by the court, that, “As to the characters of the
“prisoners, good character is of weight where proof is
“doubtful, but flies up when put in the scale against
“plain and positive evidence; and as to the suddenness
“of the action—where there is a sudden quarrel, and a
“provocation is given by him who is killed, and where
“suddenly and mutually persons attack each other and
“fight, and one of them is killed in heat of blood, it is
“manslaughter. But where one is the aggressor, pursues the insult, and kills the person attacked, without
“any provocation, though on a sudden, the law implies
“malice, and it is murder.”

After a trial of eight hours, the jury found Savage and Gregory guilty of murder, and Merchant guilty of manslaughter; in consequence of which, the latter was burnt in the hand and discharged.

On the 11th of December, 1727, Richard Savage and James Gregory were brought to the bar with other capital convicts, to receive sentence of death; and being asked, in the customary manner, what they had to say why judgment should not be passed on them, Mr. Savage spoke as follows:

“It is now, my lord, too late to offer any thing by way
“of defence, or vindication; nor can we expect aught
“from your lordships in this court, but the sentence
“which the law requires you, as judge, to pronounce
“against men of our calamitous condition.—But we are
“also persuaded, that as mere men, and out of this seat
“of rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender
“passions, and too humane not to commiserate the
“unhappy situation of those whom the law sometimes
“perhaps, exacts from you, to pronounce sentence
“upon.

“No doubt, you distinguish between offences which
“arise out of premeditation, and a disposition habitual
“to vice or immorality, and transgressions, which are the
“unhappy and unforeseen effects of a casual absence
“of reason, and sudden impulse of passion; we, therefore, hope you will contribute all you can to an extension of that mercy which the gentlemen of the jury
“have

“ have been pleased to shew Mr. Merchant, who (allow-
“ ing facts as sworn against us by the evidence) has led
“ us into this calamity.

“ I hope this will not be construed as if we meant to
“ reflect upon that gentleman, or remove any thing from
“ us upon him, or, that we repine the more at our fate,
“ because he has no participation of it : no, my lord !
“ for my part, I declare nothing could more soften my
“ grief, than to be without any companion in so great a
“ misfortune.”

The queen having been graciously pleased to grant a pardon to Messrs. Savage and Gregory, they were admitted to bail on the 20th of January, 1728, in order to their pleading that pardon ; and on the 5th of March following, they pleaded accordingly, and were set at liberty.

Mr. Savage was at the same time one of the most ingenious and most unfortunate of the human race. He was a natural son of the Countess of Macclesfield, by Captain Savage, who was afterwards Earl of Rivers. While his mother was pregnant with him, she told Lord Macclesfield that the child of which she should be delivered was not his, but that Captain Savage was the father of it.

Incensed at this declaration, Lord Macclesfield preferred a bill in the house of peers, and obtained a divorce, in consequence of an act passed for that purpose ; but the lady's fortune, which was very considerable, was reserved to her own use. Soon after the divorce, the Countess married Captain Savage ; and the unfortunate subject of this narrative was born on the 10th of January, 1697.

This extraordinary affair greatly excited the attention of the polite world : but the mother of Mr. Savage behaved in such a manner as will for ever entail infamy on her memory. She conceived a hatred for her child from the moment of his birth ; and resolving that the witness of her shame should not remain in her presence, she put him out to nurse with a poor woman in the country, with positive directions that he should be brought up as her own son, and not be acquainted who were his real parents. This trust was faithfully discharged by the nurse ; and
when

when young Savage was eight years of age he was placed at the grammar-school of St. Alban's. Though Earl Rivers made repeated inquiries after him, he could not learn what was become of him: but he had taken care to have his right name registered in the parish books of St. Andrew, Holborn.

When Savage had attained the age of fifteen years, his nurse died, and on examining her papers, he came to understand the mystery of his birth, and the contrivances that had been carried on to conceal his real origin.

About this time he was advised, by his mother's private directions, to put himself apprentice to a shoemaker, but this he absolutely refused to do, though he was then almost in want of the common necessities of life. Reduced to this uncomfortable situation, it was very natural for him to apply to his mother; but though he made repeated efforts to be admitted to her presence, she refused to see him; nor would she answer any of the letters which he wrote to her. It now became absolutely necessary that he should do something for his support; on which he turned his thoughts to poetry, and wrote several pieces for the newspapers and magazines.

Savage being now in circumstances of distress, his friends advised him to publish his poems by subscription. Preparations were made for this purpose, and he had treated his mother with great freedom in the preface to the intended volume. This circumstance being made known to the countess, a settlement of 50*l*.* a year was made on him, and the preface suppressed: but the book itself was published, and in the dedication to Lady Mary Wortley Montague, is the following remarkable sentence: "Nature seemed to have formed my mind as inconsistently as fortune has my condition. She has given me a heart that is as proud as my father's, to a rank of life almost as low as the humanity of my mother!"

In the year 1724, Mr. Savage wrote his excellent tragedy called "Sir Thomas Overbury," which was acted at Drury-lane Theatre, himself performing the principal character with considerable applause. In a dedication

* It does not appear that his unnatural mother contributed to this pittance.

to this play, the author acknowledges his obligations to Aaron Hill, Esq. who wrote the prologue and epilogue to it.

Mr. Savage was greatly distressed the latter part of his life, while his father and mother had lived their unnatural course of nature in luxury. The poet retired to Swansea, in Wales, through economy, but pursued by some unfeeling creditor, he was cast into Bristol gaol, where he dragged out the remainder of his miserable days.

Certain that this brief outline must have interested the reader in the fate of poor Savage, we think a further portion of time may be well employed in an attentive perusal of a poem, which, while it affords a rich specimen of his poetical abilities, touches the heart of sensibility with allusions to his own wretched state, and the unnatural conduct of his mother. The preface to this poem, printed in Mr. Savage's lifetime, and nine years after the trial above reported, says, "That though it passed
" through five editions in a very short time, it must be new
" to many of our readers. Such of them as have read it,
" will easily pardon us for repeating so agreeable an
" entertainment, especially as it has been revised by the
" author."

If such was the avidity with which the public received the works of Mr. Savage, we trust that its republication in this work will prove agreeable to our readers.

THE BASTARD.

A POEM inscribed with all due reverence to Mrs. Brett, once Countess of Macclesfield. By Richard Savage, Esq. son of the late Earl of Rivers.

Decet hæc dare Donna Novercam. *Or. Met.*

IN gayer hours, when high my fancy ran,
The muse, exulting, thus her lay began.

Blest be the *Bastard's* birth ! through wondrous ways,
He shines eccentric like a comet's blaze.
No sickly fruit of faint compliance, he !
He ! stamp'd in nature's mint of ecstasy !
He lives to build, not boast, a gen'rous race ;
No tenth transmitter of a foolish face.

His

His daring hope no sire's example bounds ;
His first-born lights no prejudice confounds ;
He, kindling from within, requires no flame,
He glories in a *Bastard's* glowing name.

Born to himself, by no possession led,
In freedom foster'd, and by fortune fed ;
Nor guides, nor rules, his sov'reign choice controul,
His body independent as his soul.
Loos'd to the world's wide range—enjoin'd no aim,
Prescrib'd no duty, and assign'd no name,
Nature's unbounded son, he stands alone,
His heart unbiass'd, and his mind his own.

O *mother*, yet no mother !—'tis to you
My thanks for such distinguish'd claims are due.
You, unenslav'd to nature's narrow laws,
Warm championess for *freedom's* sacred cause,
From all the dry devoirs of blood and line,
From ties maternal, moral and divine,
Discharg'd my grasping soul, push'd me from shore,
And launch'd me into life without an oar,

What had I lost, if conjugally kind,
By nature hating, yet by vows confin'd,
Untaught the matrimonial bonds to slight,
And coldly conscious of a husband's right,
You had *faint-drawn* me with a *form* alone,
A lawful lump of life, by force your own !
Then, while your backward will retrench'd desire,
And unconcurring spirits lent no fire,
I had been born your dull, domestic heir,
Load of your life, and motive of your care ;
Perhaps been poorly rich, and meanly great,
The slave of pomp, a cypher in the state,
Lordly neglectful of a worth unknown,
And slumb'ring in a *seat* by *chance* my own.

Far other blessings wait the *Bastard's* lot,
Conceiv'd in rapture, and with fire begot ;
Strong as necessity, he starts away,
Climbs against wrongs, and brightens into day !

Thus unprophetic, lately misinspir'd,
I sung ; gay, flatt'ring hope my fancy fir'd ;
Inly secure through conscious scorn of ill,
Nor taught by wisdom how to balance will,
Rashly deceiv'd, I saw no *pits* to shun,
But thought to *purpose*, and to *act* were *one* ;
Heedless what pointed cares pervert his way,
Whom caution arms not, and whom woes betray ;
But now expos'd, and shrinking from distress,
I fly to shelter while the tempests press.

My muse to grief resigns the varying tone,
The raptures languish, and the numbers groan.

O memory !—thou soul of joy and pain !
Thou actor of our passions o'er again !
Why dost thou aggravate the wretch's woe ?
Why add continuous smart to every blow ?
Few are my joys ; alas ! how soon forgot !
On that *kind* quarter thou invads't me not.
While sharp and numberless my sorrows fall,
Yet thou repeat'st and multiply'st them all.

Is chance a guilt ? that my disastrous heart,
For mischief never meant must ever smart ?
Can self-defence be sin ? Ah, plead no more !
What though no purpos'd malice stain'd thee o'er ?
Had heaven befriended thy unhappy side,
Thou had'st not been provok'd, or thou hadst died.

Far be the guilt of home-shed blood from all,
On whom unsought embroiling dangers fall,
Still the pale *dead* revives, and lives to me,
To me ! through *pity's* eye condemn'd to see.
Remembrance veils his rage, but swells his fate,
Griev'd I forgive, and am grown cool too late.
Young and unthoughtful then, who knows, one day,
What rip'ning virtues might have made their way ?
He might have liv'd till folly died in shame,
Till kindling wisdom felt a thirst for fame.
He might perhaps his country's friend have prov'd,
Been gen'rous, happy, candid, and belov'd.
He might have sav'd some worth, now doom'd to fall,
And I, perchance, in him have *murder'd* all.

O fate of late repentance ! always vain !
Thy remedies but lull undying pain.
Where shall my hope find rest ? No mother's care
Shielded my infant innocence with prayer :
No father's guardian hand my youth maintain'd,
Call'd forth my virtues, and from vice restrain'd,
Is it not time to snatch some pow'rful arm,
First to advance then screen from future harm ?
Am I return'd from death to live in pain ?
Or would *imperial pity* save in vain ?
Distrust it not !—What blame can *mercy* find,
Which gives at once a life and rears a mind ?

Mother, miscall'd, farewell !—Of soul severe,
This sad reflection yet may force one tear :
All I was wretched by to you I ow'd,
Alone from strangers ev'ry comfort flow'd.

Lost to the life *you* gave, *your* son no more,
And now *adopted* who was *doom'd* before.

New-born,

New-born, I may a nobler mother claim,
 But dare not whisper her immortal *name*;
 Supremely lovely, and serenely great!
 Majestic *mother* of a kneeling *state*!
Queen of a people's hearts, now ne'er before,
 Agreed,—yet now with one consent *adore*!
 One contest yet remains in this desire,
 Who most shall give applause when all admire.

We shall conclude our sketch of the misfortunes of Savage by the following elegant lines on his death:

LAMENTED bard, forgive the weeping muse,
 Who points the failings where she can't accuse;
 Like thee, on life's tempestuous ocean tost,
 Opprest by sorrows, by misfortunes crost:
 Yet let her pay these honours to thy tomb,
 There let the laurels smile—the myrtle bloom;
 There let the Graces pleasing vigils keep,
 And kindly watch their bard's untroubled sleep.
 Let one eternal verdure there be seen,
 Hid all thy faults beneath the flow'ry green;
 Each passion lost thy easy nature sway'd,
 Each devious step conceal'd through passion made;
 Let kind indulgence every frailty blot,
 All but thy merit, and thy lays, forgot!
 The lays that to enduring fame consign'd,
 Shall mark thee as the friend of human kind.

ANTHONY DRURY,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, NOVEMBER 3, 1726, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THIS offender was a native of Norfolk, and the son of parents in reputable circumstances, who imprudently neglected to bring him up to any business; so that when he arrived at years of maturity, he wandered about the country curing smoky chimneys, which procured him the appellation of the smoky doctor among those who knew his profession.

At length he married a woman who was said to possess a very considerable fortune; but whatever this fortune was, Drury never received more of it than 500*l*. He now lived some years with his wife at Andover, but occasionally ranged the country in search of that business in which he seemed to place his chief delight. His wife
 used

used every argument to prevail with him to remain at home ; but her solicitations were without effect.

Sometimes he would stroll to London, and bring with him valuable articles for his support ; and on one of these occasions he pawned some plate for twenty pounds, and dissipated the money in company with women of abandoned character.

By degrees he stripped his wife of great part of what should have supported her, so that she was obliged to the friendship of her relations for a maintenance. By a continued course of extravagance he grew daily more and more vicious, and at length determined to commence highwayman.

In London he made an acquaintance with Robert King, the driver of the Bicester waggon. This King was a fellow of most execrable character, whose practice was to inform the highwaymen when he had any persons to travel in his waggon* who possessed any considerable sum of money, or valuable effects, that they might be robbed on the road ; on which occasions a share was always given to the driver.

Drury being in company with this King, the latter told him that a gentleman named Eldridge would travel in the waggon on the following day, and that it would be prudent to rob him before he got far from town, as he would have with him a very considerable booty.

Our adventurer listened eagerly to this tale, and the next day robbed Mr. Eldridge of two hundred and fourteen guineas. As he took money only, he had very little apprehension of detection ; but another traveller in the waggon happening to know him, repaired to London and gave information against him ; whereupon he was taken into custody, and being brought to his trial, was convicted on full evidence.

After he received sentence of death, his behaviour was consistent with his unhappy situation. He was a regular attendant on divine worship, and a constant peruser of books of religion ; but at the same time he did

* Formerly people of great property used to travel in waggons ; but the frugal manners of our ancestors are abolished, and post-chaises and flying machines take place of the other carriages.

every thing in his power to procure a respite of the fatal sentence.

Some people of consequence exerted themselves to obtain the royal mercy for Drury, but in vain ; his character and crime militated too forcibly against him.

After conviction he repeatedly wrote to his wife, desiring her to come to London ; and among other motives to prevail on her, told her that she might redeem the plate which he pawned : but all he could say had no effect ; she lent a deaf ear to all his entreaties.

He appeared to be greatly disturbed in mind at this unfeeling indifference of his wife, and prevented that calmness of disposition which was requisite to a proper preparation for his approaching exit.

Two days before his death he received the sacrament with every mark of real contrition. On the evening preceding his execution, a gentleman sent a woman to inquire what declaration he would make respecting the waggoner, to whom he answered, that he had no idea of committing the crime till King proposed it to him, and that his life was sacrificed in consequence of his taking that advice.

When at the place of execution, he appeared to possess more courage than he had done some time before, and again declared that the waggoner had seduced him to commit the robbery. He earnestly exhorted young people to avoid bad company, as that which would most infallibly bring them to destruction.

This malefactor suffered in the twenty-eighth year of his age.

MARGARET DIXON,

MURDERER.

THE following case is more remarkable for resuscitation after execution, than for the flagitious life of the condemned. Though some doubt may arise of her guilt of the crime on which she was convicted, none can be entertained of her being restored to existence after being hanged the usual time, and enjoying life more than thirty years afterwards.

This

This remarkable woman was the daughter of poor parents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and who brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, having also instructed her in such household business as was likely to suit her future situation in life. The village of Musselburgh is almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dixon had attained years of maturity, she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children. But there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service, and during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connexion with a man at Musselburgh, in consequence of which she became pregnant. At this time it was the law in Scotland, that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed, because the mother dreaded this public exposure, particularly as many Scotch ladies went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister, who were never seen there on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dixon averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied, though there was every appearance that might warrant the discrediting what she said. At length, however, she was delivered of a child; but it is uncertain whether it was born alive.

Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh. When her trial came on, several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved, that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence.

The jury giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of Guilty: in consequence of which she was doomed to die.

After her condemnation, she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many

ny sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband ; but she constantly and steadily denied, that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in the church, had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant ; and she said that, being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours ; and that a state of insensibility ensued, so that it was impossible she should know what became of the infant.

At the place of execution her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place ; but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off, with every sign of trepidation.

It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public-house had recollection enough to bleed her, and in about an hour she was put to bed : and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the court has been executed, can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated ; and it is likewise held, that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party ; which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs. Dixon, then, being convicted and executed as above mentioned, the king's advocate could prosecute her no farther ; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary

ciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged! and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alledged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

EDWARD BELLAMY.

EXECUTED AT TYBURN MARCH, 27, 1728, FOR HOUSE-BREAKING.

THIS malefactor was a native of London, and served his time to a taylor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated with some women of ill fame and became a thief in order to support their extravagance. His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pickpockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secrete something of greater. It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and forcing up the windows of shops with a chissel, run off with any property that lay within their reach.

Having followed this infamous business about three years, he forged (an offence not then capital) a note, by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

In a short time after he left Newgate, he made connections with Jonathan Wild, who used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield; and Bellamy wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose;

Wildgoose ; but this the famous thief-taker absolutely refused.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose and being well acquainted with the hand-writing of the former, he forged a draft on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation ; and as soon as Bellamy had got the money, he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

A few days after this transaction, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draft for the above mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own hand-writing, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draft. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name ; but by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender. Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in White-friars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would give orders how they should dispose of him. In the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should be re-apprehended : but before he had proceeded in this negociation, Wild's men seized him at a gin shop in Chancery-lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer, that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself.

Hereupon Bellamy was discharged : but knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him ; and the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for

the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies. He and one of his gang having broken the sash of a silversmith's shop in Russel-court, Drury-lane, a person who lay under the counter fired a blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to decamp without their booty. This attempt failing, they went to the house of another silversmith, which they broke open; and finding the servant-maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into silence and carried off effects to a large amount,

Not long after this robbery, they broke open the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the expectation of finding cash to a great amount; but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till.

Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widegate-Alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day.

From the shop of a silversmith, in Bride-lane, they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate street, a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's Inn-Lane; having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chissels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within hearing them, cried out thieves! on which they run off without their booty.

Having broke into a tea warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up valuable parcels of goods, when the maid servant came down stairs, undressed, and without a candle. Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house: but when she came into the shop, Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lie on the floor, while they went off with their booty: and the same night they broke open the shop
of

of a mercer in Bishopsgate-street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames-street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lanthorn and staff. It need not be said that the poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions.

Soon after this they stole a large sum of money, and a quantity of goods, from the house of a grocer which they broke open in Aldersgate-street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

Their next exploit was at an old clothes-shop, kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article: and after this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman-street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintance, the Jews.

They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen draper in Westminster: for some people coming up before they had completed their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's Church-Yard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs, while a woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door: and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel, and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds from a house which they broke open in Red-Lion-street; and breaking another the same night in Fullwood's-Rents, obtained about an equal booty.

While

While they were thus rendering themselves the mere pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester-fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects : but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge ; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate ; and while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount.

His next adventures were the breaking open a house in Petticoat Lane, and another in Grocer's-Alley in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes : and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Hounds-ditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth-street ; but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehending him ; in consequence of which he was taken near the Seven Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence. From this time till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a cheerfulness of behaviour, and said, that he would be hanged in his shroud ; but the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind ; and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty. He was executed at Tyburn, and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, in which he confessed his numerous offences, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence.

JOHN EVERETT,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEBRUARY 20, 1729, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

WAS a native of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated, his father possessing 300*l.* per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but running away from his master, he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant. On the return of his regiment to England, he purchased his discharge, and repairing to London, bought the place of an officer in Whitechapel Court, in which he continued about seven years, but having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties whom his inconsiderate good-nature had liberated. To evade imprisonment, Everett enlisted in lord Albemarle's company of foot guards; soon after his engaging in the army, he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted.

This Bird hinted, that great advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett could be trusted; and the latter, anxious to know what the plan was, learnt that it was to go on the road; on which an agreement was immediately concluded. Hereupon they set out on their expedition, and robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London, from which they obtained considerable booty, in jewels, money and valuable effects. Thus successful in their first exploits, they went to Hounslow-Heath, where they stopped two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they obliged them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches; the watches were afterwards left, according to agreement, at a coffee-house near Charing-Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them. Soon after they stopped a gentleman in an open chaise, near Epsom. The gentleman drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, two guineas, his sword, and some writings; but they returned the writings at the earnest request of the injured

injured party. They also made a practice of robbing the butchers and higgler on Epping Forest, on their way to London. One of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higgler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about three pounds; but returned her hat. Soon after this they stopped a coach on Hounslow Heath, in which were two quakers, who calling them *sons of violence*, jumped out of the coach to oppose them; but their fellow-travellers making no resistance, and begging them to submit, all the parties were robbed of their money. Everett remarking that one of the quakers wore a remarkable good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tye, which he had purchased for half a crown of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphose caused great mirth among the other company in the coach. About ten days after this, he and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where seeing two gentlemen on horse-back, Everett stopped the foremost, and Bird the other, and robbed them of upwards of three guineas and their gold watches; they then cut the girths of the saddle; and secured the bridles, to prevent a pursuit. They now hastened to Brentford, where understanding that they were followed, they got into the ferry to cross the Thames; and when they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable, they gave the ferrymen ten shillings, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard, and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was only a drunken frolic, and the robbers got safe to London. Some time after this, Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced to three years imprisonment in New Prison, Clerkenwell. After some time, he was employed to act here as turnkey, and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying he took a public-house in Turnmill-street. He had not been long in this station, when the new keeper who had been appointed frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of his resuming the office.

office of turnkey. This he did; but when Everett had perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him, without assigning any reason for so ungenerous a conduct. Everett being now greatly in debt, and obliged in consequence to remove within the rules of the Fleet Prison, took a public-house in the Old Bailey. After which, he took the Cock ale-house in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison. While in this station, he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the session, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of about 300*l.*, which reduced him to circumstances of great distress; but he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment; his character, however, was such, that no person would engage him. Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the highway, with a view, as he solemnly declared after sentence of death, to raise only 50*l.*, as his brewer would have given him credit, if he could have possessed himself of that sum. Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver; and though he observed she had a watch and some gold rings, &c., he did not demand them. Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather-lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton-garden, and going into the Globe tavern. Here he called for wine, and while he was drinking he saw his pursuers pass, on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped into a public-house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass. Thinking himself safe, he remained here a considerable time. When he thought the pursuit was over, he called a coach at the end of Brook-street, and driving to Honey-lane market, purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner; he then went to his lodging

in Newgate-market. On the following day, one Whitaker (called the boxing drover) circulated a report that Everett had committed a highway robbery; on which, the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public-houses which he used to frequent; but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented. A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate-market having buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with decency, Everett repeatedly visited the widow, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family. The widow's son, jealous of this connexion, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings; but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection. Having one evening observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and entering the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart, but the latter, by superiority of strength, disarmed him. The young fellow was at length persuaded to sit down, when Everett assured him that he entertained the utmost respect both for himself and his mother; but the youth answered, that he was a liar, and the mutual destruction of both mother and children must follow their unlawful connexion. As the lad grew warm, Everett affected great coolness and good-humour, and considered how he might most readily get rid of so unwelcome a guest, as he was unwilling so soon to part with the widow. At length he determined to make the young fellow drunk, and plied him with such a quantity of liquor that he fell fast asleep, in which condition he was left, while the other parties adjourned to a distant tavern, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed seven guineas of the widow, under pretence of paying her in a week. Not long after this, Everett was married to this very widow at Stepney Church, by which he came into the possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with

with her, if he would have taken her advice ; but the extravagance of his disposition led to his ruin. When he was in very low circumstances, he casually met his old accomplice Bird, and joined with him in the commission of a robbery in Essex. They were both taken and lodged in Chelmsford Gaol ; but Everett having turned evidence, the other was convicted and executed. As soon as he obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington ; but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried and capitally convicted. He had been married to three wives, who all visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow ; but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a pen-knife, but was prevented by one of his wives ; for which interposition, he afterwards expressed the greatest happiness. What gave him most uneasiness was the crime of perjury, of which he had been guilty ; with a view to take away the life of an innocent man. One Pickett, a cooper, having affronted him, he swore a robbery against him ; but the jury not being satisfied with the evidence, the man was fortunately acquitted. Mr. Nicholson, the then minister of St. Sepulchre's church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death, and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences ; but the number of people who visited him from motives of curiosity, took off his attention from his more important duties. However, he was at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The gaol-distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison, but this was totally false. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin.

At the place of execution he behaved in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was unaffected.

JOHN ONEBY, ESQ.

MURDERER.

(A MILITARY OFFICER.)

THIS man, to use an applicable but common observation, was another *pot-valiant* officer of the army. He was the son of an eminent attorney, at Burnwell, in Leicestershire, who gave him an education which should have taught him not to violate the laws of his country. His father intended him for his own honourable profession, and procured him a marriage with the niece of the celebrated Sir Nathan Wright, who was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

Sir Nathan appointed him to be his train-bearer—no invaluable place, but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However, he kept his place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion in this line, he bought a commission in the army.

He served under the Duke of Marlborough in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter quarters at Bruges, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby, having killed the other, was brought to his trial before a court-martial, which acquitted him of the murder.

The regiment being soon afterwards ordered to Jamaica, Mr. Oneby went with it, and during his residence at Port Royal, fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner, that he expired after an illness of several months; but as he did not instantly die, no farther notice was taken of the affair.

The rank of major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services; but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half-pay.

Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming-houses, and became so complete a gambler that he commonly

monly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent-garden, they all adjourned to the Castle tavern, in Drury-lane, where they went to cards.

Mr. Hawkins, who was one of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would bet him three half-crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq., who, in ridicule, laid down three half-pence.

On this, Major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him ; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides ; but Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were immediately reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion.

Gower seemed inclined to compromise the affair, though the major had been the aggressor. In answer to this, Oneby said, he “ would have his blood ;” and told Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied, “ he was ready to answer, if he had any thing to say :” to which Oneby said, “ I have another chap first.”

Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning, soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, “ Hark ye, young gentleman, a word with you ;” on which they retired to another room, and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and, on the entrance, they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right, and Mr. Gower's sword laid on the floor.

Before the company could part the combatants, Gower dropped to the ground, but it was not imagined that he had been wounded, till blood was observed streaming through his waistcoat. On this, one of the company said to the major, that he was apprehensive he had killed Mr. Gower ; but the other replied, “ No, I might have done it if I would, but I have only frightened him ; but, supposing I had killed him, I know what is to be done in these affairs ; for if I had killed him to-night, in the heat of passion, I should have had the law on my side ;

side ; but if I had done it at any other time, it would have looked like a set meeting, and not a rencounter."

A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr. Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through his intestines, of which wound he died the following day ; Mr. Oneby was therefore apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

The circumstances above-mentioned were stated on his trial ; but, some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, referable to the opinion of the twelve judges.

Mr. Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the Court of King's Bench, that counsel might be heard on his case.

Hereupon, the prisoner was carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus ; and the record of the special verdict being read, the reverend Bench, with great humanity, assigned him two counsel, a solicitor, and a clerk in court.

Lord Chief Justice Raymond and three other judges presided a few days afterwards, when the major being again brought up, his counsel, as well as those for the crown were heard ; after which, the Lord Chief Justice declared, that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the other judges, and then the prisoner should be informed of the event.

The major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner, at the Crown and Anchor tavern, in the Strand, to the persons who had the custody of him ; and seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his counsel, entertained little doubt of being discharged, and said he would spend the rest of his life in a military capacity.

After a considerable time, the judges assembled at Serjeants'-Inn Hall, to bring the matter to a final decision, counsel were heard on both sides, and the pleadings lasted a whole day, during which the major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty

tainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour.

In the midst of these delusive expectations, a gentleman called, and told him that eleven of the judges had decreed against him; which greatly alarmed him. How far this was the fact could not then be known; for though the major employed several persons to wait at the inn, to bring him information, they could learn nothing more than that the judges had broke up about ten o'clock at night, without declaring their opinion.

Not many days after this, the keeper of Newgate told the major he must double-iron him, to prevent his making his escape; and that he must be removed to a safer place, unless he would pay for a man to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news, and asked the keeper's authority for such a proceeding; but he could obtain no satisfactory answer.

He was now loaded with irons; and having written several letters to the judges, and other persons of distinction, to which he received no answer, he began to be apprehensive that the most serious consequences would result from the crime of which he had been guilty.

The man appointed to attend the major in his room was one John Hooper (who was afterwards executioner,) a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance, that when Oneby first saw him, he exclaimed, "What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? Whenever I look at him, I shall think of being hanged." Hooper, however, by a knack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the major.

At length the judges assembled again at Serjeants'-Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the counsel for the prosecution demanded that their lordships would proceed to judgment. Hereupon the sense of the Bench was delivered to Mr. Oneby by Lord Raymond, who said that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that he had been guilty of murder; and that his declaring he would "have the blood" of Gower had great weight in his disfavour.

To this the major solemnly declared, that he had never
spoken

spoken such words ; and begged the interposition of the judges with his majesty for a pardon. Lord Raymond told him it was in vain for him to deny the words, as they were returned in the special verdict ; and that the judges could not interfere by an application to the king ; but that he must seek another channel through which to solicit the royal mercy.

A few days after this, judgment of death was passed against him ; and he was ordered to be executed. His friends and relations exerted all their influence to procure him a pardon ; but their intercession proved in vain. For a while he flattered himself that his gambling companions would intercede in his favour, and he made application to them accordingly : but none of them interested themselves in any degree to do him service.

While the major was in confinement, an author waited on him, and told him that a pamphlet was written in his disfavour, but that he would exert his best endeavours to put a stop to the publication. It was supposed, that the author's view was to have learnt something from the major that might be inserted in the pamphlet : but failing to obtain any materials by these means, the book made its appearance in a few days.

This circumstance so inflamed the passions of Oneby, that he said, " I would die willingly, if I could only get an opportunity of being revenged on that rascally, ragged author ;" and he actually sent for him several times, with a view to have given him a drubbing ; but the writer had more sagacity than to do honour to his invitation.

On the Saturday preceding the day that he was ordered for execution, an undertaker went to Newgate, and delivered him a letter, of which the following is a copy, saying, that he would wait below for an answer :

" Honoured Sir,

" This is to inform you that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury-lane, where I have lived many years, and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, as I suppose, spoke to any body else about your funeral, if your honour

nour shall think fit to give me orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner as any man alive.

Your honour's unknown

Humble servant,

G. H."

The major had no sooner read this letter than he flew into a violent passion, which being made known to the undertaker, he thought proper to decamp without waiting for his orders.

When Hooper came at night to attend Mr. Oneby, he told him of the letter he had received from the undertaker, and in terms very improper for his melancholy situation, expressed his resentment for the supposed affront.

Every hope of pardon being vanished, this unhappy man had recourse to the dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On the night of the Saturday last mentioned, he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning, he asked for a glass of brandy and water, and pen, ink, and paper: and sitting up in the bed, wrote the following note:

"Cousin Turvill,

"Give Mr. Ackerman, the turnkey below stairs, half-a-guinea; and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here."

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accordingly left, and a gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the major's footman with him, he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak.

The gentleman approaching the bed-side, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a penknife, and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

JAMES CLUFF,

MURDERER,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JULY 25, 1729, ON AN APPEAL, AFTER BEING
ACQUITTED.

THIS unhappy young man was born in Clare-market, and lived as a waiter at several public-houses, in all of which he maintained an extraordinary character for diligence, obligingness, and integrity.

Mr. Payne, master of the Green Lattice, in Holborn, hired Cluff as a servant, and during his residence there, he fell in love with Mary Green, his fellow-servant; but she, being courted by another man, constantly rejected his addresses, which frequently agitated his mind in the most violent degree.

Green's other lover coming to see her, sat in the same box with her, and was received by her in an affectionate manner; but this did not seem to be much regarded by Cluff, who was then engaged in attending the customers: but when the lover was gone, Mr. Payne, perceiving that something had discomposed Cluff's mind, asked him the reason of it; but could not prevail on him to tell the cause.

While Mr. Payne and his wife were at dinner in the parlour, and the girl was eating her dinner in one of the boxes, Mrs. Payne heard a noise, as if two persons were struggling, and going into the tap-room, Cluff said, "Come hither, madam." On this she advanced, and saw the prisoner holding the deceased by the shoulders, who was sitting on the floor, and speechless, while the blood streamed from her in large quantities.

Mrs. Payne called out, "What have you been doing, James?" He said, "Nothing." He was asked if he had seen her hurt herself? He said, "No; but that he had seen her bring a knife from the cellar, where she had been to draw some beer for her dinner." Mr. Payne now entered the tap-room, and then went into the cellar to discover if there was any blood there; but finding none, he accused Cluff on suspicion of having committed the murder; and instantly sent for a surgeon.

When

When the surgeon arrived, he found that a knife had been stabbed into the upper part of the thigh, and entered the body of the girl, in such a manner that she could not survive the stroke more than a minute.

A bloody knife was found in the room, and Cluff was committed to Newgate for the murder. On his trial, the surgeon deposed that the knife fitted the wound that had been made, and that he believed the woman had not killed herself; but the jury acquitted the prisoner, from what they deemed insufficiency of evidence.

A discharge of the accused party would now have followed of course; but William Green, the brother and heir of the deceased, immediately lodged an appeal; in consequence of which Cluff was brought to trial at the next sessions but one, when his case was argued with the utmost ingenuity by the counsel for and against him; but this second jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction, his behaviour was the most devout and resigned that could be imagined; he exercised himself in every act of devotion; but solemnly declared his perfect innocence with respect to the murder.

He was visited by his friends, who earnestly entreated him to make a sincere confession, especially, as in his case it was not in the power of the king himself to grant him a pardon. In answer hereto, he freely confessed all his other crimes; but, saying he would not rush into eternity with a lie in his mouth, again steadily denied the perpetration of the crime of which he had been convicted.

The clergyman who attended him urged him to the confession of his guilt, and even refused to administer the sacrament to him on the morning of his execution, on any other terms than those of acknowledging his crime; but nothing could shake his resolution: he still steadily persisted in his innocence.

On his way to the place of execution, he desired to stop at the door of his late master, which being granted, he called for a pint of wine, and having drank a glass of it, he addressed Mr. Payne in the following terms:—

“Sir, you are not insensible that I am going to suffer an ignominious death, for a crime of which I declare I

am not guilty, as I am to appear before my great Judge in a few moments to answer for all my past sins. I hope you and my good mistress will pray for my poor soul. God bless you and all your family."

At the place of execution he behaved in the most composed, devout, and resigned manner; and seemed to possess his mind in the consciousness of innocence. There was a great concourse of spectators to witness his fatal end; to whom he spoke in the following manner: "Good people, I am going to die for a fact I never committed, I wish all mankind well; and as I have prayed for my prosecutors, I hope my sins will be forgiven through the merits of my ever blessed Redeemer. I beg you to pray for my departing soul; and as to the fact I now die for, I wish I was as free from all other sins."

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 25th of July, 1729, exhibiting no signs of fear to his last moment.

The case of this man is very extraordinary. The evidence against him was at best but circumstantial; and this not supported with such strong corroborative proofs as have occasioned conviction in many other instances. No person was witness to his commission of the murder; nor was there any absolute proof that he did commit it; and from the steady perseverance with which he denied it, under the most awful circumstances, and at the very concluding scene of his life, charity would tempt one to believe that he was innocent.

Ought not this case to afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence? Is it not better that the guilty should escape, than the innocent be punished? All the decrees of mortals are liable to error; but the time will come when all mists shall be cleared from our sight, and we shall witness to the wisdom of those laws of Providence which are now inscrutable to mortal eyes. Then shall we see that what appeared inexplicable to us was divinely right; and learn to admire that wisdom which, at present, so much exceeds our finite comprehension.

In the mean time, we ought to adore that goodness we cannot comprehend, and rest satisfied with those dispensations which are eternally and immutably just.

JOHN

JOHN GOW,

(Captain of a notorious Gang of Pirates,)

EXECUTED AT EXECUTION-DOCK, AUG. 11, 1729, FOR PIRACY,

WAS a native of one of the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland, and was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert, that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from the place above-mentioned, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her came to pay her a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.

On this occasion, the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck, and while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance.

The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers; but conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger; but only said, that there was a steward on board, who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed: on which the seamen retired with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders; and on the captain demanding why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails, he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed, than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders disobeyed.

obeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck.

The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second-mate and gunner, to clean the arms ; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow, and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship ; wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprise ; and they determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck ; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty, the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watchword was given, which was, "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were asleep.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded, quit-
ted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands on their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to heaven ; but even this favour was denied ; for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

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The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied that he did not know, but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea : but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them, when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him, for he now solicited mercy, on which the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated the blow, but he had struck with such force that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy, secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, appointed them their different stations on board, and it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves, should be informed, that no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them.

The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms ; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin, and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night
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in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew had originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators, and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority.

On the following day, the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, said, that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said, that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was all that would be required. He said further, that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened: that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill from it: that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these honest unfortunate men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent of measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain, they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure; but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel; and being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty, by beating the unhappy men, a privilege which he did not fail to use with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the George Galley, but the pirates gave her the name of the Revenge; and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

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They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin, a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow, that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear, rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship bound to Italy with pickled herrings; but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruizing eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crouded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and, after a chase of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira islands, of which they came in sight in two days, but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel, but their expectations were frustrated.

Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but, if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water, conveying it in the boats to the ships. But both these schemes were frustrated, since it was easily known, from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruized off for some days, they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely

necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement, at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place, they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprize of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death, and, with every sign of extreme fear, solicited that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves; but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon: however, it would have been of no use for them to have made capture of such a vessel: yet they did take it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken, and taking out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for the ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him: all of whom

whom did so, except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

The day previous to this affair, they observed a French ship bearing down towards them, on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them, that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said, that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Patterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard, when he suddenly sprang on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described; it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner, for his diversion, (as he called it,) and then threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt-fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions, and many of the stores,

they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly-captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villian, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he should experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is the most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was, that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for, on which Williams proposed, that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said, there had been too much blood spilt already: for this was too horrid a proposal for even pirates to consent to.

The fact is, that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England; but even this poor favour was denied him; and his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows."

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon, he delivered his prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive, that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council,

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in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hopes of profit, or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the Isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great, if they continued longer on the high seas; and above all that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them, they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and if they would follow his directions, much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals; but Gow said, that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again, before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them, what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion: and it is probable that they might, for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally obeyed.

These instructions were, to say they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting in to clean their ship; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling-vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man; and, being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north-about, to steer clear of the Custom-House cutters.

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In their present situation Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel ; though in any other he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching ; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after laying concealed some time at a farm-house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace-officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing such villians to justice.

About this juncture, ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county ; and, the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while

while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman, running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage, to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain, missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings: but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and, jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came again to an anchor, near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed than they sailed to an island called Calf-Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken: though Fea could not oppose the pirates

pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark, that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf-Sound; for, standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order, five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied, that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent

adjacent alehouse, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of the company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with ; and when he had left the pirates, he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him to come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him ; but if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat : but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men ; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public-house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates, being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined, and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done ; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to, and steal them ; and to request that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirate's guns.

On the following day, the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf-Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms; but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men, on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him, that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men, in an open boat, carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape; but if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter, Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed in a boat, and rowed towards the ship; but he previously placed a man, with a flag in his hand, at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once, if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea, rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon, Fea lay to, in waiting for him; but at this juncture, he saw a man swimming from the ship with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag; but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in
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her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and, calling to Mr. Fea, told him, "that the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied, that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this, Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and, taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which, Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage, and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow, that he would let him

have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized: but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivances to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c., and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and, while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how to act; but, after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and, coming on shore, were all taken into custody.

Thus, by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded, and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim, Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following are a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's hand-writing. It is conjectured, that while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands, these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation.

I. That every man shall obey his commander in all respects as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give, or dispose of, the ship's provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons, who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day ; and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates ; and the answer brought was, that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city ; and, on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river, a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain at Lisbon, as above mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial ; and, soon after their commitment, they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the admiralty court in Doctor's Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others, were convicted, and received sentence of death : but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

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The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was, that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But, when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was, that he was convicted, as above mentioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death, he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrociousness of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all description. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his constantly advising Gow "to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea," to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were executed together.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

JEPHTHAH

JEPHTHAH BIG,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, SEPT. 19, 1729, FOR SENDING A LETTER TO
EXTORT MONEY.

THIS malefactor was a native of Spitalfields, and having a brother who was coachman to a gentleman of fortune, he conceived an idea of supplying his own extravagancies, by extorting money from his brother's master.

Calling on one Peter Salter, he took him to an obscure public-house near the Minories, where he developed his scheme, saying he might obtain a hundred guineas by sending a threatening letter, but was at a loss to think what house the money should be sent to: at length he fixed on a public-house called the Shoulder of Mutton, at Billingsgate, whither he directed Salter to go, and wait till a porter should bring a letter, directed to John Harrison, which letter Salter was to carry to Big, at an alehouse on Fish-street Hill.

Agreeable to this direction, Salter waited at the Shoulder of Mutton till a porter brought a letter, and spoke to the landlord and his son, who seemed surprised at reading the contents. Guilt is ever cowardly; and one of them going out, Salter imagined it was to call an officer to apprehend him, on which he slipped out of the house, and went to his companion on Fish-street Hill.

These associates in roguery taking a walk to Moorfields, Big said he was undaunted by this repulse, and that he would write such a letter as would make the gentleman tremble, and he did not doubt of success. In consequence of an agreement between the parties, another letter was sent, ordering the gentleman to send a hundred guineas, inclosed in a parcel, to the Black Boy, in Goodman's-fields, directed to John Harrison.

Salter went daily, and drank at this house, where he had hitherto been a stranger, in expectation of an answer which he was to receive, guarding only against any artifice that might be used to apprehend him. While he was thus waiting, he read an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a reward for the incendiary.

At this juncture, a porter brought a letter, which he gave the landlord, who having read it, the porter said,
"I have

“ I have a parcel for one Mr. Harrison ; do you know such a gentleman ? ” The landlord inquired if any person present answered to that name ; but Salter was too much on his guard to do so ; and drinking his beer without any sign of fear, he went to an alehouse, near Aldgate, where he met his accomplice, and told him a scheme was laid to apprehend him.

After some conference, they adjourned to a public-house near the residence of the gentleman to whom the threatening letters had been sent. Here Big sent for his brother, who attended, but said, as he was obliged to go out with his master, he could not stay with them. Big now observed, that his brother had complained of the peevish disposition of his master, and asked if he did not intend to leave him. The brother replied, that his master had been very fretful for some days past ; but added, “ I have now found out the reason ; for some vile rogue has sent a threatening letter, and swears he will murder him, if a sum of money is not sent to a public-house in Goodman’s-fields.”

When Big’s brother was gone, he told Salter he would send another letter, whatever might be the consequence ; but Salter persuaded him not to run the risk of a proceeding which must be followed by certain ruin.

A few days after this, the porter who had carried the letter and seen Salter at both the public-houses, happened to meet him, and suspecting that he might be the incendiary, delivered him into the custody of a peace-officer, on which he accused Big as the principal, who was thereupon apprehended and committed to Newgate, and Salter admitted evidence for the crown.

Big, being tried at the Old Bailey, was sentenced to die ; but, after conviction, he seemed to be of opinion that he had not been guilty of a capital offence in sending a letter to extort money. He was thought to be a Roman Catholic, since he refused the attendance of the Ordinary while he lay in Newgate.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 19th of September, 1729, but was so ill at the place of execution that he could not attend the devotions proper for men in his calamitous situation.

Sir SIMON

Sir SIMON CLARKE, Bart. and Lieut. ROBERT ARNOTT,

CONVICTED AS HIGHWAYMEN, BUT AFTERWARDS REPRIEVED.

TITLES, honours, and high-sounding names, have been debased to such a pitch, that they become interesting subjects for criminal chronology.

The law, regarding the nature of our common title to society, places men upon a level ; and under this right, we shew neither favour nor affection in handing to posterity the methods taken by individuals to violate that excellent code. The meanest member of our country is free as the titled peer, and, like him, cannot be adjudged guilty, but by his peers—that is, his equals—Commoners, by a jury of twelve men ; and Lords, by the House of Lords.

But the fountain of justice, originally pure, is too often tinged by the foul tide of influence. In court measures, we may dread a torrent of corruption overwhelming us ; and we may have occasion to witness its minions escape with impunity.

In the days of Gay, that admirable poet, and close observer of men and manners, from the court to the cottage, the abuse of this delegated power, though in its infancy, was more boldly attacked than in its more rapid progress. Who would now, in the face of a modern Attorney General, dare to write like Gay ? The spirit of the middle part of the last century has surely nearly evaporated ; for who, in the present times, viewing the result of impeachments of great men, and enquiries into the conduct of still greater men, would be hardy enough to put into the mouth of Captain Macheath, the highwayman, a character in his inimitable drama of the “ Beggars’ Opera,” these lines ?

“ Since laws were made for every degree,
 “ To curb vice in others as well as in me,
 “ I wonder we han’t better company,
 “ Upon Tyburn-tree.
 “ But gold from law will take out the sting ;
 “ For if rich rogues, like me were to swing,
 “ ’Twould thin the land—such numbers to string
 “ Upon tyburn-tree.”

Sir Simon Clarke and Lieutenant Robert Arnott were tried and convicted of a highway robbery, at an assize held at Winchester. We shew the reader, that unrestrained gusts of passion have brought some noble men to the gallows ; and others have been led to the block for treason ; but more have escaped their merited fate through influence. No man, however, of title, do we remember to be brought to ignominy for a robbery, in the course practised by highwaymen, save Sir Simon Clarke, and no mercy should be extended towards those favoured by fortune, for the commission of so despicable a crime.

The influence exerted in behalf of this criminal, and his coadjutor in iniquity, almost smothered the promulgation of the trial. We, however, in our researches into the crimes of individuals, found it named in one of the best publications of that day, and in which, with equal celebrity, an unparelled circumstance is still continued, through a long series of monthly publications.

The Gentleman's Magazine, to which we refer, for the month of March, 1731, contains the following information ; and, as we have met with it in no other periodical work of that time, for in fact, few such are now in preservation, we give it without farther comment.

“ Came on at Winchester, the trials of Sir Simon Clarke,
 “ Bart. and Lieutenant Robert Arnott, who were con-
 “ victed of a robbery on the highway. A numerous con-
 “ course of gentry were present. Sir Simon made a
 “ most pathetic and moving speech, which had such an
 “ effect, that there was scarce a dry eye in the court.
 “ The High Sheriff and Grand Jury, considering the an-
 “ tiquity, worth, and dignity, of Sir Simon's ancestors,
 “ the services they had done their king and country, to-
 “ gether with the youth and melancholy circumstances
 “ of that unhappy gentleman, agreed to address his
 “ Majesty in their behalf ; upon which a reprieve *sine*
 “ *die*, which implies for ever, was granted them.”

ROBERT

ROBERT IRWIN,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, IN THE YEAR 1731, FOR MURDER.

In the fate of this man we have another instance of the tormenting impulse that impels murderers, who have escaped the punishment which awaits such as shed innocent blood, to return, as it were involuntarily, to make atonement for the horrid crime.

This hoary sinner was, at the time of his committing the murder in question, a soldier in the second regiment of foot guards. On the evening of the fatal deed, he had been drinking Geneva with a comrade of the name of John Briggins, after which they went together to a gaming-house, called the Phoenix, in the Hay-market, where Irwin had sometime held the office of door-keeper.* Ringing the bell, one Piercy, who had succeeded Irwin as door-keeper, opened a wicket; but seeing who it was, said, he had orders not to let him in, as he had already been turned out for breeding quarrels and disturbances. Enraged at this language from the man who had supplanted him, he drew his bayonet, pushed it through the wicket, into the very heart of Piercy, and then made his escape. Hearing the next morning that the door-keeper of the Phoenix had been murdered, he determined to desert his regiment, which he immediately put in practice, and fled to Ireland, where he remained long undiscovered among his relations, and might, for the remainder of his wretched life, have remained thus concealed, had his mind been undisturbed; but his situation grew irksome, and nobody could dissuade him from returning to London. As a reason for so doing, he pretended, that from his long services in the army, he would, on application be made an out-pensioner of Chelsea hospital, and fancied the murder would be forgotten. He had not, however, been many

* Soldiers in the guards, for long and faithful services, are often indulged with leave of absence from duty, in order to allow them to earn a little addition to their pay, which, alone, but it supplies the comforts to old age.

days in London, before he was met by one John Roberts, who caused him to be apprehended. He was tried at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Piercy, near five years after the commission of the crime, when his old comrade Briggins, appeared, and swore that he saw Irwin give the fatal blow. He was found guilty, and executed at Tyburn, where he confessed the fact.

WILLIAM SMITH,

A NOTORIOUS HORSE-STEALER, EXECUTED AT CHELMSFORD, APRIL 13, 1731.

In the former part of the last century, horse-stealing was a very common theft. Thieves could then dispose of their stolen booty with much more facility than at present; the laws being better maintained and carried into execution than formerly.

The subject of the present enquiry was not only a horse but a cattle-stealer of every description. Smith was born in Cambridge, bred a clothier, had been a soldier, then degraded to the post of footman to a private family; and from that lazy, saucy kind of life became connected with horse-stealers. Owing to his person, not yet known in the scenes of their depredations, he for some time acted as the receiver of the gang. He returned some of the stolen property for the reward offered, cut out or altered the marks of others, and drove the remainder to a distance for sale. From a rich farmer in Essex, he stole four fine large colts, and gave them to a colonel in the French service, hoping to be rewarded by a commission in his regiment; but Monsieur, though he liked the young horses, despised the thief; and Smith found that he had been outwitted. In revenge, he defrauded a farmer of six horses, pretending to purchase them.

Becoming now known in Essex, he changed his depredations to Surry, and soon cheated a farmer's widow of two cows. Having next stolen a horse and a mare, he was about to drive the whole off for sale, when, on the 27th of May, 1731, he was apprehended. The cows
were

were found yoked together, and tied to the horses' tails ! and he was in the very act of cutting off the ears of the former, in order to deface them, having already altered the marks of the horses.

He was tried for the offences committed in Essex, at Chelmsford, and found guilty of felony, in horse-stealing. In the interim between his condemnation and execution, he gave out that he could inform persons how to recover their property of which he had robbed them, and cheated many out of sums of money by false tales, and other deceitful acts ; and the produce of this shocking depravity he wasted in drinking and gaming, which shameful practice he continued to the day of his execution. He suffered at Chelmsford, along with Thomas Willer, another horse-stealer, on the 13th of August, 1731.

At the next assize for the same county another horse-stealer was convicted and executed. This man's name was *John Doe*, against whom *thirty-nine* bills of indictment were found by the grand jury ! He belonged to a numerous gang of depredators, who stole cattle of every description, and drove them to Smithfield market, in London, where he had the effrontery to sell them.

ROBERT HALLAM,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, FEB. 14, 1732, FOR MURDER,

Was a native of London, and intended by his parents for a maritime life, in preparation for which they had him instructed in navigation, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel. He served his time with fidelity, acquired the character of an able seaman, and afterwards served on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation.

On his return to London, he married a young woman, who being averse to his going again to sea, he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

His family being increased by several children, he took
a public-

a public-house, which was chiefly attended by his wife, while he still pursued his business as proprietor of the Gravesend boats.

The taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam: for the house being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated; and being irritated by this circumstance, he expressed his sentiments with great freedom; and she replying with some warmth, he beat her so as to leave evident marks of resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father, that a waterman who lodged in the house frequently slept with his mother; and some person present likewise hinting that this was probable, from some familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed; and she confessed that she had been so; on which he beat her in a more severe manner than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door; but no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder to get in at the window; when his wife appeared, and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not sooner open the door, she said she had been asleep, and did not hear him: but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, and had let him out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to equal indulgence of his irregular passions; he had illicit connections with several women: and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, who broke his heart and died in consequence of the affair.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and went to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself, and come to bed likewise. She sat, partly undressed on the side of the bed, as if afraid to go in; while he became quite enraged at her paying no regard to what he

he said. At length she ran down stairs, and he followed her, and locked the street-door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, and, seizing her in his arms, threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that, on her falling, her back was broken, her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing just before she fell, heard her cry out "Murder ! for God's sake ! for Christ's sake ! for our family's sake ! for our children's sake, don't murder me, don't throw me out of the window !"

We give the above circumstances as what were sworn to on the trial, in consequence of which the jury found Hallam guilty, and he received sentence of death : but the prisoner denied the fact, insisting that she threw herself out of the window before he got into the room : and he persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life, as we shall see in the sequel.

After sentence of death, he was visited by his father, to whom he solemnly declared that he had not thrown his wife out of the window, though in other respects he confessed that he had treated her with great severity. He made the same solemn declaration to the ordinary of Newgate, at Tyburn.

JOHN HEWIT & ROSAMOND ODERENSHAW,

MURDERERS, EXECUTED MARCH 29, 1732.

THOUGH adultery is, by holy writ, denounced as a crime heinous to God ; and though we have daily instances of the shocking enormities to which it leads the unguarded ; yet virtue and modesty are constantly outraged by the commission of this sin, with impunity. No wonder, then, at the mischief arising from this vice, when our very princes, who

who are bound by every tie to hand down to the meanest members of society examples worthy of emulation, seem regardless of that commandment of God, which says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

The murder perpetrated in the present case, was the result of an adulterous connection.

John Hewit was a butcher and a married man, at Derby, and Rosamond Oderenshaw, a servant to the landlady of the Crown public-house, at Nun's green, a widow, to whose inordinate desires she fell a victim, being made the instrument of murdering the wife of Hewit. From the confessions of these malefactors, it appeared that Hewit had criminal knowledge of both the landlady and her servant woman. The former of these abandoned women, in order to secure her paramour to herself, by marrying him, determined on the murder of Mrs. Hewit. To this horrid end, the landlady procured some poison, and mixed it in a pancake, which, through promises of reward, she prevailed upon the servant to give to Hannah Hewit, who, little suspicious, eat heartily thereof, until she was seized with a pain in her stomach, and, vomiting a part of the contents in the yard, a pig that eat of it soon died, and the unfortunate woman expired in excruciating torments, at the end of three hours. While the devoted victim eat the poisoned food, the hardened landlady appeared to be composedly ironing some clothes in the parlour, yet the instigator of the foul deed escaped; while the husband, who was proved to have been accessory to the crime, and the servant alone, met their just punishment. The condemned wicked woman, a short time previous to her execution, confessed that, through the persuasion of her mistress, she had, some weeks before, put poison into the broth of Mrs. Hewit, but not in a sufficient quantity to produce the intended effect; and that she had borne a bastard child, which she murdered, and buried the body in a certain spot, which she described; digging the ground, the bones of a child, apparently seven months old, were accordingly found.

This miserable man and woman provided themselves with a shroud each, in which they walked to the gallows, where

where they died penitent, and confessed their guilt, on the 20th of March, 1732.

About this period, Faulkner's Journal, the best periodical publication in Ireland, contained a note of a murder committed under the most unnatural and cruel circumstances, but we do not find it in any criminal catalogue whatever. Too short for a narrative of itself, and unwilling to avoid handing it with others of a similar shade of darkness, as a warning to society against the commission of sins, we have here inserted it, as being nearly a similar case, in chronological order.

“The assizes at Ennis, in Ireland, for the year 1731, brought to light a still more shocking murder, if one can be more heinous than another. A cruel and unnatural woman, named Mary Meddun, was convicted of the wilful murder of her husband and her son, by blows on their temples, when asleep, with a hatchet, of which they both immediately expired. What rendered this wretch more odious to the people attending her execution, was a firm belief that she had murdered a former husband.”

JOHN WALLER, alias TREVOR,

PILLORIED FOR PERJURY, IN GIVING FALSE EVIDENCE AGAINST INNOCENT MEN, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A REWARD GIVEN ON CONVICTION OF HIGHWAYMEN.

THE Pillory is an engine made of wood, to punish offenders, by exposing them to public view, and rendering them infamous. There is a statute of the pillory 51 Henry III.; and it is appointed for bakers, fore-stallers, and those who used false weights, perjury, forgery, &c. Lords of Leets are to have a pillory and tumbrel, or it will be the cause of forfeiture of the leet; and a village may be bound by prescription to provide a pillory, &c,

The name is derived from two Greek words, signifying “to look through a door” because one standing on the pillory puts his head, as it were, through a door.

This profligate wretch, Waller, to robbery added the abominable sin of accusing the innocent, in order to receive the reward in certain cases attending conviction.

This dealer in human blood was tried at the Old Bailey, for robbing on the highway, one John Edglin, and afterwards, under the name of John Trevor, giving a false evidence against the said John Edglin, whereby his life might have become forfeited to the abused laws of the country. On the latter charge he was found guilty.

It appeared on this memorable trial, that this monster, Waller, made it a practice to go to the circuits as regularly as the judges and counsel, and to swear robberies against such as he deemed objects for his purpose, for no other purpose than to obtain the reward given by each county for the apprehension and conviction of criminals for highway-robberies and other offences committed in each respective county.

The sentence of the court was, that he should pay a fine of twenty marks, and be imprisoned for the term of two years, and at the expiration thereof to find good and sufficient security for his good behaviour during the remainder of his life : that he do stand twice in and upon the pillory bare-headed, with his crime written in large characters ; and that he do also stand twice before the pillory, likewise bare-headed, one hour each time.

On Tuesday the 13th of June, 1732, this wicked man was put in the pillory pursuant to his sentence, at the Seven Dials, in London ; where so great was the indignation of the populace, that they pelted him unto death ; and the day after, the Coroner's inquest gave a verdict. " Wilful murder, by persons unknown."

ELY HATTON,

MURDERER.

IN the account given of the case of this man, which has not been republished, or commented upon, since the time of his conviction, we find no interesting cause for perpetrating the horrid crime.

Ely Hatton was indicted at the assizes held at Gloucester, in August, 1732, for the wilful murder of Thomas Turberville, a carpenter. It was given in evidence, that on the 29th of April preceding, the deceased was found in his work-shop, with his brains dashed out, and his scull chopped

chopped in pieces with a broad axe, which lay near his body, covered with blood. Suspicion falling upon Hatton, he was apprehended, having made no effort to evade justice. The proof against him was little more than circumstantial. It appeared in evidence, that when the prisoner was apprehended, he wore a shirt and pair of stockings, the property of the deceased. His coat was stained with blood, and many other circumstances were adduced, which left no doubts in the minds of the jury. The accused acknowledged that he had been in company with the deceased, on the evening of his death, that he went with him to a certain eminence near the town, to view some deer, and there they parted; that the shirt he had on, when apprehended, was his brother's; but this was a falsehood, and alone sufficient to fix guilt upon him. He called one witness in his behalf, who served only to tend to his conviction; for this witness declared, that he verily believed him guilty of the murder. The prisoner's defence also varied from his account on his examination before a justice of peace, when he declared that the shirt in question belonged to his father.

As no farther light was thrown upon the circumstances attending the murder of Turberville, it may be fairly presumed, notwithstanding the proof was not positive, that Hatton justly underwent the sentence of the law.

The editor, however, recollects a story, but he cannot state the names of the parties, where an innocent man suffered in France, on a charge of murder, and which will, at all events, caution jurymen, when sitting on the life or death of a fellow-creature, to be extremely guarded in giving their verdict of guilty upon circumstantial evidence alone. A gentleman was found murdered in his own house, and by his own sword. Some persons, coming to the house just after the barbarous deed had been committed, were shocked at seeing his servant man, in great consternation, running out, with a bloody sword in his hand. So great was his agitation, that he gave an incoherent account of the transaction, and was secured. A surgeon was sent for, who found the master dead, and comparing the wound with the sword, declared that the weapon, or one exactly similar, caused his death. This,

with the proof that there had been quarrels between the deceased and the prisoner, was the evidence given on the trial; and he was found guilty, and executed. Some years afterwards, a late neighbour of the murdered man lay on his death-bed, and when his confessor came to administer, what Catholics call, the *extreme unction*,* he confessed that having had a dispute with him, he entered his house privately, and in revenge, killed him, as already has been described.

ELEANOR BEARE,

(A VERY CURIOUS AND WICKED CASE.)

IN our dreadful catalogue of crimes, committed by man upon his fellow creatures, none is attended with more pernicious consequences to society than that which we now, and with much reluctance, are about to describe. The hope that this relation will cause every female to reflect with detestation on a wretch, who could make such murderous practices a kind of business, alone determines us to give a place to the case of this abandoned woman.

On the 15th of August, 1732, Eleanor Beare, wife of Ebenezer Beare, of the town of Derby, labourer, was tried before a most crowded court, for procuring abortion in women.

We forbear following the reporter of this trial through the evidence adduced against the prisoner; let it therefore suffice to quote the speech of the counsel for the prosecution on opening the case, which was as follows:

* This ceremony of the Catholic faith is thus performed. A priest, when summoned for that purpose, forms a procession, consisting of an oblong canopy of cloth, borne by four of the inferior clergy, under which he walks preceded by a boy bare-headed, tinkling a little bell; at the sound of which passengers prepare to pay it due respect. They kneel down as it passes them, cross their foreheads, and touch their breasts, repeating a prayer. Arrived at the dying person's abode, the priest receives their confessions, and then, for a small gratuity, absolves them of their sins, and declares, that their souls will be received in heaven. A happy religion, for those who can have faith in such superstition!!!

“Gentlemen

“Gentlemen of the Jury,

“You have heard the indictment read, and may observe that this misdemeanor, for which the prisoner stands indicted, is of a most shocking nature. To destroy the fruit in the womb, carries something in it so contrary to the natural tenderness of the female sex, that I am amazed, however any woman should arrive at such a degree of impiety, and cruelty, as to attempt it in such a manner as the prisoner has done. It has really something so shocking in it, that I cannot well display the nature of the crime to you, but must leave it to the evidence. It is cruel and barbarous to the last degree, and attended with the greatest danger to whoever it is practised upon.”

It was proved that this dangerous woman had not only procured abortion in different women, but even persuaded a man named Nicholas Wilson, upon having a quarrel with his wife, to poison her; and for this purpose gave him a deadly powder, which the man, more humane, instead of administering, dug a hole in the earth, and buried it.

The learned judge before whom she was tried was greatly moved in summing up the evidence, and giving charge to the jury. He declared that he never met with a case so barbarous and unnatural. She was sentenced to close imprisonment for the term of three years, and to stand in and upon the pillory, on the two next market days of the town of Derby.

Pursuant to this sentence, she was exposed in the pillory three days afterwards, being the next market day, when the populace expressed their indignation, by pelting her with rotten eggs, and any filth they could collect; and she might with her life have expiated her crimes, had she not, in struggling, disengaged herself, and jumped among the crowd, from whose fury the Sheriff's officers, with great difficulty, rescued her.

The next week she was again brought out of prison, and again pilloried. As soon as she mounted the platform, she kneeled down and begged mercy of the still outrageous mob. The executioner finding, from her struggling, some difficulty in getting her head through the

the hole of the pillory, pulled off her head-dress, and therein found a large pewter plate, beat out so as to fit her head, which he threw among the spectators. As soon as she was fixed, a shower of eggs, potatoes, turnips, &c. assailed her from every direction ; and it was thought she would not be taken down alive. Having expended all the ammunition of the above description, stones were thrown, which wounded her to such a degree, that her blood streamed down the pillory. This somewhat appeased the resentment shewn against her, and she was returned to gaol a shocking spectacle to behold !

This remarkable case, with those immediately preceding, viz. Hatton's, Waller's, Hewit's, Smith's, Irwin's, and Clarke's, were never before regularly reported.

FRANCIS CHARTERIS,

A MEAN PROFLIGATE, AND DEBAUCHEE ; RICH, PITIFUL, AND DESPICABLE ;
CONVICTED OF USING VIOLENCE TO THE PERSON OF ANN BOND.

THE name of Charteris, during life, was a terror to female innocence ; let, therefore, his fate, and the exposure of his villany, act as their shield against the destructive evils of profligate men, especially such as upon whom the blind and fickle goddess, Fortune, may have unworthily heaped riches. The wealthy profligate, in order to gratify an inordinate passion, will promise, perjure, and pay to any length, or to any amount—then “like a loathsome weed, cast you away.”

Be thus advis'd, ye young and fair,
Let virtuous men engage your care.
The rake and libertine despise ;
Their breath is poison — O be wise !
Their arts and wiles turn quick away,
And from fair Virtue's path ne'er stray.

By the law of Egypt, rapes were punished by cutting off the offending parts. The Athenian laws compelled the ravisher of a virgin to marry her. It was long before this offence was punished capitally by the Roman law ; but at length the Lex Julia inflicted the pains of death on the ravisher.

ravisher. The Jewish law also punished this crime with death ; but if a virgin was deflowered without force, the offender was obliged to pay a fine and marry the woman.

By the 18th of Elizabeth, cap. 7, this offence was made felony without benefit of clergy.

It is certainly of a very heinous nature, and if tolerated, would be subversive of all order and morality ; yet it may still be questioned how far it is either useful or politic to punish it with death ; and it is worth considering, whether, well knowing that it originates in the irregular and inordinate gratification of unruly appetite, the injury to society may not be repaired without destroying the offender.

In most cases, this injury might be repaired by compelling, where it could be done with propriety, the criminal to marry the injured party ; and it would be well for society if the same rule extended not only to all forcible violations of chastity, but even to instances of premeditated and systematic seduction.

In cases, however, where marriage could not take place, on account of legal disability, or refusal on the part of the woman, the criminal ought to be severely punished, by pecuniary damages to the party injured, and by hard labour and confinement, or transportation for life.

The execrable subject of this narrative was born at Amsfield, in Scotland, where he was heir to an estate, which his ancestors had possessed above four hundred years ; and he was related to some of the first families in the North, by intermarriages with the nobility.

Young Charteris having received a liberal education, made choice of the profession of arms, and served first under the Duke of Marlborough, as an ensign of foot ; but was soon advanced to the rank of cornet of dragoons ; he, however, appears to have had other views than fighting, when he embraced the life of a soldier.

Being a most expert gamester, and of a disposition uncommonly avaricious, he made his knowledge of gambling subservient to his love of money ; and while the army was in winter-quarters, he stripped many of the officers of all their property by his skill at cards and dice.

But

But he was as knavish as he was dexterous; and, when he had defrauded a brother officer of all his money, he would lend him a sum at the moderate interest of an hundred per cent, and take an assignment of his commission as a security for the payment of the debt.

John, Duke of Argyle, and the Earl of Stair, were at this time young men in the army; and being determined that the inconsiderate officers should not be ruined by the artifices of Charteris, they applied to the Earl of Orkney, who was also in the army, then quartered at Brussels, representing the destruction that must ensue to the young gentlemen in the military line, if Charteris was not stopped in his proceedings.

The Earl of Orkney, anxious for the credit of the army in general, and his countrymen in particular, represented the state of the case to the Duke of Marlborough, who gave orders that Charteris should be put under arrest, and tried by court-martial. The court was composed of an equal number of English and Scotch officers, that Charteris might have no reason to say, that he was treated with partiality.

After a candid hearing of the case, the proofs of Charteris's villany were so strong, that he was sentenced to return the money he had obtained by usurious interest, to be deprived of his commission, and to be drummed out of the regiment, his sword being first broken; which sentence was executed in its fullest extent.

Thus disgraced, Charteris quitted Brussels, and in the road between that place and Mecklin, he threw his breeches into a ditch, and then buttoning his scarlet cloak below his knees, he went into an inn to take up his lodgings for the night.

It is usual, in places where armies are quartered, for military officers to be treated with all possible respect; and this was the case with Charteris, who had every distinction shewn him that the house could afford, and, after an elegant supper, was left to repose.

Early in the morning he rang the bell violently, and the landlord coming terrified into his room, he swore furiously that he had been robbed of his breeches, containing a diamond ring, a gold watch, and money to a considerable

considerable amount ; and, having previously broken the window, he intimated that some person must have entered that way, and carried off his property ; and he even insinuated that the landlord himself might have been the robber.

It was in vain that the inn-keeper solicited mercy in the most humiliating posture. Charteris threatened that he should be sent to Brussels, and suffer death, as an accessory to the felony.

Terrified at the thought of approaching disgrace and danger, the landlord of the house sent for some friars of an adjacent convent, to whom he represented his calamitous situation, and they generously supplied him with a sum sufficient to reimburse Charteris for the loss he pretended to have sustained.

Our unprincipled adventurer now proceeded to Holland, whence he embarked for Scotland ; and had not been long in that kingdom before his servile submission, and his money, procured him another commission in a regiment of horse ; and he was afterwards advanced to the rank of colonel.

Amidst all his other avocations, the love of money was his ruling passion ; for the acquirement whereof, there was no crime of which he would not have been guilty.

The Duke of Queensbury was at this time commissioner to the parliament of Scotland, which was assembled at Edinburgh, to deliberate on the proposed union with England. Charteris having been invited to a party at Cards with the Duchess of Queensbury, he contrived that her Grace should be placed in such a manner near a large glass, that he could see all her cards ; and he won three thousand pounds of her in consequence of this stratagem. One good consequence, however, arose from this circumstance : the Duke of Queensbury, incensed at the imposition, brought a bill into the house, to prohibit gaming for above a certain sum ; and this bill passed into a law.

Our adventurer continued his depredations on the thoughtless, till he had acquired considerable sums. When he had stripped young gentlemen of their ready cash at the gaming-tables, it was his practice to lend

them money at an extravagant interest, for which he took their bonds to confess judgment, and the moment the bonds became due, he failed not to take every legal advantage.

By a continued rapacity of this kind, he acquired several considerable estates in Scotland, and then removed to London, which, as it was the seat of greater dissipation, was a place better adapted to the exertion of his abilities.

He now became a great lender of money on mortgages, always receiving a large premium, by which at length he became so rich as to purchase several estates in England, particularly in the county of Lancaster.

Colonel Charteris was as infamous on account of his amours, as for the unfeeling avarice of his disposition: his house was no better than a brothel, and no woman of modesty would live within his walls. He kept in pay some women of abandoned character, who, going to inns where the country waggons put up, used to prevail on harmless young girls to go to the colonel's house as servants; the consequence of which was, that their ruin soon followed, and they were turned out of doors, exposed to all the miseries consequent on poverty and a loss of reputation.

His agents did not confine their operations to inns, but wherever they found a handsome girl, they endeavoured to decoy her to the colonel's house; and, among the rest, Ann Bond fell a prey to his artifices. This young woman had lived in London; but having quitted her service on account of illness, took lodgings at a private house, where she recovered her health, and was sitting at the door, when a woman addressed her, saying, she could help her to a place in the family of Colonel Harvey: for the character of Charteris was now become so notorious, that his agents did not venture to make use of his name.

Bond being hired, the woman conducted her to the colonel's house, where she was three days before she was acquainted with his real name. Her master gave her money to redeem some clothes, which she had pledged to

to support her in her illness, and would have bought other clothes for her, but she refused to accept them.

He now offered her a purse of gold, an annuity for life and a house, if she would lay with him ; but the virtuous girl resisted the temptation, declared she would not be guilty of so base an act ; that she would discharge her duty as a servant, and that her master might dismiss her, if her conduct did not please him.

On the day following this circumstance, she heard a gentleman asking for her master by the name of Charteris, which alarmed her fears still more, as she was not unapprised of his general character ; wherefore she told the house keeper, that she must quit her service, as she was very ill.

The housekeeper informing the colonel of this circumstance, he sent for the poor girl, and threatened that he would shoot her if she left his service. He likewise ordered the servants to keep the door fast, to prevent her making her escape ; and when he spoke of her, it was in the most contemptuous terms.

On the following day, he directed his clerk of the kitchen to send her into the parlour, and, on her attending him, he bid her stir the fire ; while she was thus employed, he violently seized, and committed violence on her, first stopping her mouth with his night-cap ; and afterwards, on her saying that she would prosecute him, he beat her with a horse-whip, and called her by the most opprobrious names.

On his opening the door, the clerk of the kitchen appeared, to whom the colonel pretended that she had robbed him of thirty guineas, and directed him to turn her out of the house, which was accordingly done.

Hereupon she went to a gentlewoman named Parsons, and informing her of what had happened, asked her advice how to proceed. Mrs. Parsons recommended her to exhibit articles against him for the assault ; but when the matter came afterwards to be heard by the grand jury, they found it was not an attempt, but an actual commission of the fact ; and a bill was found accordingly.

When the colonel was committed to Newgate, he was loaded with heavy fetters ; but he soon purchased a

lighter pair, and paid for the use of a room in the prison, and for a man to attend him.

Colonel Charteris had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton, of Scotland, who bore him one daughter, who was married to the Earl of Wemys; and the Earl happening to be in London at the time of the above-mentioned transaction, procured a writ of habeas corpus, in consequence of which the colonel was admitted to bail.

When the trial came on, every art was used to traduce the character of the prosecutrix, with a view to destroy the force of her evidence; but, happily, her character was so fair, and there was so little reason to think that she had any sinister view in the prosecution, that every artifice failed; and after a long trial, in which the facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, a verdict of guilty was given against the colonel, who received sentence to be executed in the accustomed manner.*

On this occasion, Charteris was not a little obliged to his son-in-law, Lord Wemys, who caused the Lord President Forbes to come from Scotland, to plead the cause before the privy-council; and an estate of 300*l.* per annum for life was assigned to the president for this service.

At length the king consented to grant the colonel a pardon, on his settling a handsome annuity on the prosecutrix.

Colonel Charteris was tried at the Old Bailey, on the 25th of February, 1730.

After his narrow escape from a fate which he had so well deserved, he retired to Edinburgh, where he lived about two years, and then died in a miserable manner, a victim to his own irregular course of life.

He was buried in the family-vault, in the church-yard of the Grey Friars of Edinburgh; but his vices had rendered him so detestable, that it was with some difficulty that he was committed to the grave; for the mob almost

* At Exeter, on the 5th of October, 1753, an unworthy minister of the holy gospel, the reverend Peter Vine, was hanged for committing a crime of this nature.

tore the coffin in pieces, and committed a variety of irregularities, in honest contempt of such an abandoned character.

Soon after Charteris was convicted, a fine mezzotinto print of him was published, representing him standing at the Bar of the Old Bailey, with his thumbs tied ; and under the print was the following inscription :

Blood !——must a colonel, with a lord's estate,
Be thus obnoxious to a scoundrel's fate?
Brought to the bar, and sentenc'd from the bench,
Only for ravishing a country wench?
Shall men of honour meet no more respect?
Shall their diversions thus by laws be check'd?
Shall they be accountable to saucy juries
For this or t'other pleasure?—hell and furies!
What man through villany would run a course,
And ruin families without remorse,
To heap up riches—If, when all is done,
An ignominious death he cannot shun?

But the most severe, yet just, character of Charteris, was written by the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot, and is comprised in the following Epitaph :

HERE lieth the body of Colonel
DON FRANCISCO ;*
Who, with an inflexible constancy,
And inimitable uniformity of life,
Persisted, in spite of age and infirmity,
In the practice of every human vice,
Excepting prodigality and hypocrisy ;
His insatiable avarice
Exempting him from the first,
And his matchless impudence
From the latter.
Nor was he more singular
In that undeviating viciousness of life,
Than successful in accumulating wealth ;
Having,
Without trust of public money, bribe,
Worth, service, trade, or profession,
Acquired, or rather created,
A minister estate.
Among the singularities of his life and fortune
Be it likewise commemorated,
That he was the only person in his time
Who would cheat without the mask of honesty ;
Who would retain his primeval meanness
After being possessed of 10,000 pounds a year:

* Francis Charteris.

And

And who, having done, every day of his life,
 Something worthy of a gibbet,
 Was once condemned to one
 For what he had not done.
 Think not, indignant reader,
 His life useless to mankind:

PROVIDENCE

Favoured, or rather connived at,
 His execrable designs,
 That he might remain
 To this and future ages,
 A conspicuous proof and example
 Of how small estimation
 Exorbitant wealth is held in the sight
 Of the ALMIGHTY,
 By his bestowing it on
 The most unworthy
 Of all the descendants
 Of Adam.

It is impossible to contemplate the character of this wretch, without the highest degree of indignation. A gambler, an usurer, an oppressor, a ravisher! who sought to make equally the follies of men, and the persons of women subservient to his passions; to the basest of passions; avarice and lust!

It would be an affront to our readers even to caution them against following so execrable an example; for surely the world will never produce two such characters as that of Colonel Charteris: but, in this case, honest detestation may be allowed to take place: and it is some proof of virtue to despise the wicked.

JAMES QUIN, ESQ.

(The celebrated Tragedian.)

TRIED FOR MURDER AT THE OLD BAILEY, AND CONVICTED OF MAN-SLAUGHTER.

WE lay hold of an unfortunate incident in this celebrated character's life, in order to present our readers with a short sketch of one of the first tragedians which have adorned the British stage. Without this, we could not, in conformity with the principle of our work, have introduced these matters of anecdote, which must prove highly acceptable to the major part of our readers.

James

James Quin was born in the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, in the year 1693.* His father was a gentleman of some estate, which he greatly embarrassed from a neglect of prudence; but he gave his son, out of the wreck of his fortune, an excellent education, which he finished at the University of Dublin, one of the strictest endowments of education in these kingdoms.

From College young Quin was sent to London, in order to study law, and for that purpose, a set of chambers in the Temple, and a library, were provided for him. Here he fell into that decay which has ever been fatal to many young men on their arrival into the great metropolis—dissipated company. Legal authorities were thrown aside, and the belles lettres substituted—he was oftener seen at the theatres than in Westminster Hall. Thus did this thoughtless young man dissipate his time until the death of his father, which indeed happened not long after his arrival in London. He found his patrimony very small, and that he himself had greatly assisted in reducing it.

He had made an acquaintance with Booth, Wilkes, and Ryan, the first performers of those days; and he determined on turning player. In the year 1717, when just twenty-four years of age, he was accepted by the managers of the Theatre Royal, Drury-Lane; but before he could prepare himself for the arduous task of an appearance before a British audience, he was obliged to fly from England.

It appears that he formed an acquaintance with a woollen-draper in the Strand, whose wife giving him encouragement, a criminal correspondence took place; and the guilty pair, being, by the ill-treated husband, traced to a house of ill fame, Quin drew his sword, and wounded him in the thigh. The husband recovered, and commenced an action of crim. con. and another for an assault, against Quin; who, to avoid the consequences of such serious proceedings, privately decamped, and went

* The Irish claim Quin for their countryman. It will be seen that he was carried to Ireland at a tender age; but, that he was born in the parish, in Westminster, where he acquired and displayed his great dramatic powers.

back to Ireland ; where he remained until the natural death of the woollen-draper.

We are not, however, about to give a long dramatic memoir, by following this celebrated tragedian through the difficulties of the drama ; but shall concisely state the outlines of his life, and the unfortunate event which subjects his name to a place in our Criminal Chronology.

We find, great as were his abilities, that he long remained at Drury-lane, to use the words of his biographer, " a mere scene-drudge,—a faggot of the Drama." In time he was entrusted with the part of Banquo, in Shakspeare's tragedy of Macbeth, and the Lieutenant of the Tower, in King Richard the Third. In the absence of a principal performer, Mr. Rich, manager of the Theatre-Royal, Lincoln's Inn Fields, with great reluctance, substituted Quin in the arduous character of Sir John Falstaff, in the comedy of The Merry Wives of Windsor. The audience proved better judges than the manager, and received his performance with uncommon applause.

His fame as an actor now rapidly increased ; and upon Booth's infirmities obliging him to quit the stage, Quin succeeded to many of his parts, and among the rest, to that of Cato, a character which had been alone acted by his predecessor, in which he was most popular, from the first representation of that admirable tragedy. There, perhaps, never was a dramatic work that engaged the public interest more than Cato. The contending parties in politics, on several nights of the first season of its appearance, ranged themselves, as in the House of Commons, on each side of the theatre, alternately applauding the patriotic and loyal speeches with which it abounds.

Though Booth was gone, Cato was soon called for, and Quin prepared for this, his greatest ordeal. He requested that the bills of the performance might say that " the part of Cato would be attempted by Mr. Quin," and with which the manager complied. The audience, pleased with his diffidence, received him with great applause, which encouraged him to call forth his utmost exertions. When the body of Cato's dead son, who was
slain

slain in battle, was brought upon the stage, upon Quin's repeating the line,

“ Thanks to the gods, my boy has done his duty.”

The audience were so struck with surprise at his energy, feeling, and manner, that, as it were with one accord, they exclaimed, “ Booth out-done ! Booth out-done !” In delivering the celebrated soliloquy in the last act, the audience (very unusual in tragedy) cried, “ Encore ! encore !” without ceasing, until he repeated it, and the curtain fell under the greatest burst of applause.

Though Quin had received these honours by his representation of the rigidly virtuous Cato ; yet, at a future time, it was that very performance which was the cause of his being arraigned at the bar of justice.

He now quickly arrived at the head of his profession, and the old stock of excellent actors being dead or retired, he remained long unrivalled, and until Garrick, who justly acquired the appellation of the English Roscius, at once rose up his most formidable rival and antagonist. While Quin remained an underling, he was modest and assiduous ; but, like greater men on the stage of politics, no sooner had he secured the public favour, and been appointed stage-manager, than he became negligent and insolent, as the following anecdote will prove :

An author of a most refined education had, by great labour, written a tragedy, (one of the greatest mental works of man) and put it into Quin's hands, behind the scenes, when dressed in character, and ready to go on the stage. The mimic hero carelessly put it in his pocket, and there left it when he changed his dress ; went to the tavern, and thought no more of the circumstance. The anxious author's patience at receiving no answer being exhausted, he applied to Quin, who, with much *sang froid*, answered, *that it would not do.** The writer therefore requested that his manuscript might be returned, and to this, in the same easy and laconic style, was told, that it laid in the window. The mortified bard hastened to the

* We are led to believe that Quin, like the managers of theatricals of the present day, did not look into this unknown, unfriended, author's work.

spot pointed out by the dramatic tyrant, but instead of his tragedy found a comedy. He told Quin of the mistake, who in return said, "If that is not it, I have certainly lost it." "Lost my tragedy,!" said the distressed author! "I certainly have," said Quin, "but here is a drawer full of tragedies and comedies, never acted, and you may take any two of them in the room of it."

This is a correct picture of the treatment which authors receive from our London dramatic managers, unless backed by gold or interest; and we firmly believe that either one or the other can readily insure, not only the performance, but generally the success, of such wretched patch-work plagiarisms and translations as are called modern plays.*

Quin was a great epicure, and in the summer, when his theatre was shut, he retired to such parts of the country as produced good living. He travelled to the western coast, to eat the fish found there, in the greatest perfection, called the John Dory, and he found turtle in higher perfection in Bath and Bristol than in London. He was received into the best classes of society, possessed a great share of gentleman-like humour; whenever he

* The writer of these observations was present at Drury-lane theatre many years since, to witness the first performance of a new Comedy. It was called "The Cholerick Man," and the avowed production of Holcroft, a good translator, and no mean writer. Never could an audience, without actual tumult, pronounce a more general and deserved damnation; for the utmost efforts of his applauding friends were instantly silenced. Yet, amidst hissings, hootings, and cursings, it was given out for a second representation; and the manager's bills for the next day announced the new comedy to have been received with the most unbounded applause;—in fine, they would have persuaded the public, that the Cholerick Man had wheedled the audience into a good humour. Yet, it did not rest here; it was acted a second time; and a third, in this kind of forced pleasure, of course succeeded, being, by ancient custom, the author's reward. Poor Holcroft, who, by-the-bye, must have sanctioned the second and third exposure of his declining faculties, had literally empty benches,—there was not cash enough taken to pay for the night's consumption of wax and oil.

Mrs. Lee, who about the same time had a comedy consigned to the same fate, though a little, and but a little, better than Holcroft's, desired it might be withdrawn, before its representation was three parts over, the audience appeared equally unwilling to hear it to an end. Thus it may be said of Mrs. Lee's dramatic writings, that, though her "*Chapter of Accidents*" brought her credit and cash, her "*Day in London*" produced a woeful night.

pleased,

pleased, was an excellent companion, and, notwithstanding his assumed managerial pomposity and affected carelessness, had a heart susceptible to the cries of distress.

He was in two *rencontres*, or duels; one of which proved fatal to his adversary, and the other had nearly proved his own destruction. The first was the murder for which he was tried, and which happened from the following circumstance.

After Quin had become the favourite of the town, in performing Cato, one Williams, an inferior actor, came to him on the stage, in the character of a Roman messenger, saying, "Cæsar sends health to Cato," but he unfortunately pronounced Cato, *Keeto*; which so affronted Quin, that instead of giving the reply of the author, he said, "Would he had sent a better messenger." This so greatly incensed Williams, that when the scene was concluded, he followed Quin into the green room, and complained to him of the injury he had sustained in being made contemptible to the audience, and thereby hurt in his profession; concluding by demanding satisfaction. Quin, instead of either apologizing for the affront, or accepting the challenge, made himself merry with his passion; a treatment that increased it to a degree of frenzy, so that, watching under the piazza of Covent Garden, as Quin was returning to his lodgings, he drew upon him, when the assailed, in defending himself, ran the unfortunate Williams through the body, which killed him upon the spot.

Quin immediately surrendered himself to the laws of his country, and under the circumstances here described, which were proved on his trial, we must agree with the jury, which found him guilty of manslaughter only. The punishment for this offence we have already fully described.

The second disagreeable quarrel in which he was involved, was with Theophilus Cibber, another brother actor, but of more merit than poor Williams. Cibber had taken offence at Quin's haughty demeanor, and had long secretly meditated revenge, which, however, he deferred executing until after the latter had quitted the stage. On the very evening previous to the day on which Quin had

announced his departure to retirement at Bath, being at the Bedford Coffee-house, taking leave of some friends, Cibber came into the room, and strutting up to the fire-place, exclaimed, that he was come to call that "capon-fed rascal," (meaning Quin) to an account for some liberties he had taken with his character. Quin calmly invited him to walk into the piazza; when there, they drew their swords,* and, most likely, one or both of these dramatic heroes would have been killed, had not Quin, in making a desperate lunge, tumbled over a stone. Cibber unhandsomely took the advantage, and made a thrust, which wounded Quin in the forehead. Cibber ran off, and the other, getting his wound dressed, took no farther notice of the affair, but set off the next morning, according to his determination, for Bath.

We are unwilling to dismiss this subject, though some may think it already spun to too great a length, without noticing the progression of the rivalry between Quin and Garrick. Like counsel at the bar they were, professionally, great enemies, but like barristers, the cause once decided, they were friends. After opposing each other many seasons, at different houses, they were engaged at the same theatre, and the tragedy of the "Fair Penitent" announced for representation; the part of Horatio by Mr. Quin, and Lothario by Mr. Garrick. To see these great rival candidates for public fame on the boards together, drew that night an overflowing house. The play began, and the audience big with expectation, when the heroes met, neither could utter a syllable. The house resounded with applause, while the opponents could only view each other with inward dread. After a long pause, occupied in plaudits from the spectators, they tremblingly began; soon the contest rose to a pitch which perhaps has never since been witnessed, or gave greater satisfaction.

We reluctantly find, that little more of our pages can be devoted to this subject; but the anecdotes of Quin, which we have come across, would nearly fill a volume.

* In those days, affronts were decided upon the spot, by the sword, which every well dressed man carried by his side.

We must therefore curb our earnest desire to proceed, by saying, that our hero ended his days, far from the scene of his dramatic broils, as a good Christian, at Bath.

During his last illness, he took bark in such large quantities, that it occasioned perpetual and intolerable thirst; and conscious that he should soon die, after having endeavoured to make his peace with the Almighty, he determined to pass his few short days in as much ease as possible. He left off all medicine, and for a little time, recovered something of his wonted spirits. The day before he died, he drank a bottle of claret; but finding his end now very near, he said, "I wish the last tragic scene was over, and I hope I shall go through it with becoming dignity." He lingered two days more, and died with resignation to the divine will, greatly regretted, on the 21st of January, 1766, in the 73d year of his age.

As Quin declined the stage, the friendship between him and Garrick increased. Whenever the former, after his retirement to Bath, paid a short visit to London, Garrick's house was his home. When death had deprived the world of that fund of amusement and delight which they had experienced in Quin's performances, the English Roscius, to commemorate his memory, to hand to posterity a tribute of his friendship, and a record of his worth, wrote the following

EPITAPH:

That tongue which set the table in a roar,
And charm'd the public ear, is heard no more!
Clos'd are those eyes, the harbinger of wit,
Which spoke, before the tongue, what Shakespeare writ,
Cold are those hands, which, living, were stretch'd forth,
At friendship's call, to succour modest worth.

Here lies James Quin! deign, reader, to be taught,
(Whate'er thy strength of body, force of thought,
In nature's happiest mould, however cast,)
To his complexion thou must come at last.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM SHELTON,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, OCTOBER 9, 1732, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

WAS born of respectable parents near Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not choose any further connection with him.

In consequence hereof he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and, though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seven years were complete, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood; and having made an acquaintance with her, unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet. So soon had he forgot his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton

Shelton was still in considerable business ; but his attachment to company was such that his expenses exceeded his income ; so that he grew daily poorer ; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life ; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua, and was received with such singular tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon, and write to England for his wife to come over to him ; but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying of this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night, some of them would have gone home ; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay : but he had not been long in bed, when the liquor he had drank occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present ; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprise of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford, in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton

Shelton having inquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expense of housekeeping. This proposal was accepted; but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect, in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common; but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies, whom he stopped in a coach; and he obtained three shillings and sixpence from a gentleman he met on the road.

He now put on a mask; and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham Abbey, but taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he, the next day, heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money, and, after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames to Richmond, where he dined, and afterwards stopped two ladies, in a coach, on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a Quaker of nine pounds; and, early on the following morning, he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had a debt to discharge which he
had

had contracted at the gaming table : which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army : but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse, on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about 50*l*. he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery, he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common ; but, being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chace, and having eluded his pursuers, he rode to London, but in his way robbed a gentleman and lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person ; but, on his return through Islington, he heard somebody cry out, " Stop the highwayman !" on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough ; but, getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He, therefore, made a circle, and got down Goswell-street, to the end of Old-street, where he again heard the cry of, " A highwayman !" on which he rode to Dog-House-Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chace, and putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages, while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse ; but, on his firing a pistol, they ran away, and he pursued his journey to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers,

farmers, who had been drinking at an alehouse till they were valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take: and they wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear: the money was but trifling, which he returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage; and the name of Shelton was now become so eminent, that many other robbers courted his acquaintance; among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike-man on Stamford Hill, but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton, than he agreed to be concerned: whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night; but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther; on which they came to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings; but Shelton determined to have no farther connection with these people.

His next robbery was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, in the road from Hounslow, from whom he took 16*l*. and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of 90*l*. exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, wherein was given a minute description of his person; on which he concealed himself some time in Herefordshire; but he had not long been there, before a person, who recollected him, informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for several robberies in Middlesex; and being convicted he was sentenced to die. While

While in prison he affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. At times indeed he would be more serious; but he soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears; but having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

At the place of execution he refused to perform the customary devotions.

JOSEPH POWIS,

A STROLLING PLAYER, EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

WE now come to another desperado, the catalogue of whose crimes, thanks to the vigilance of the police, will hardly be found in the depredations of a score of modern thieves. Had the bent of this man's mind been encouraged in its course, he might have proved a credit to society. The stage, which was his choice, is fascinating to youth, but its pursuit generally leads to a dissolute life, for we too seldom find that those who excel in the mimic art are eminent in the practice of morality in private life. Yet, from this observation, we must rescue several performers of the present day, who are alike eminent on the London boards, and respected in private society. Country theatres, too, are not without men of merit in their public capacity, and who are also ornaments to society; but the stage, like the pulpit, in disseminating morality, is too often disgraced by the private vices of their professors.

Joseph Powis was a native of St. Martin in the Fields; and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in St. Martin's-lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

r They had not been long here before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery-lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent of an errand, he constantly loitered away his time reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London, for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger; but distress compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, late manager of Covent Garden Theatre; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best clothes, again decamped.

Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's clothes, easily judged who must be the thief;

thief; wherefore he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home, and discharge his duty: but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew-fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in a farce exhibited at Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surry, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement: on which they proceeded to Horsham in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn, and being almost starved, he used to get in at the window and steal victuals, while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in the stead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's clothes from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town, they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept in the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots, and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public-house; but the landlord happening to be there, knew the

the boots to be his ; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his hay-loft, where he expected to lie secure : but the landlord, Dutton, and others, following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he had stolen the victuals ; on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep ; on which one of his guard said, “ How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes ;” to which the other said, “ Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep.”

In a few minutes both the men were asleep : on which Powis thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots ; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and coming down stairs Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner ; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and, getting on a common, knew not how to proceed ; but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and enquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way : on which the other directed him into the high road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark ; and as he was going through the street, he heard a door open ; and turning round, a woman, who had a candle in her hand, called him ; and on his demanding what she wanted, she said to another woman, “ Sure enough it is he.”

This woman, who had washed the players’ linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him ; and that his
best

best way would be to avoid the high road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike road, got to a farm-house, where he stole three books, and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night: but, knowing the place, he went into the back-yard, and laid down to sleep on some straw.

Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house. His mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued steady during the winter; but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Paterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of the Earl of Essex at Windmill Hill, near Moorfields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately, Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound
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of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate-street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in Chancery-lane, by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plaistered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to profit by the accident: in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, when he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill-hill; and, in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief" being immediately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis picked up unobserved, and retiring to a public-house, examined the contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house in Chancery-lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

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When the family were gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings worth of halfpence from the bar, and having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily ; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept ; by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant, who came down stairs ; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery-Office, where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning-prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the sexton made his appearance, who, more terrified than the thief, ran to procure the assistance of another man ; but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours, which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning, went off with as many books as produced him a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram-alley, Fleet-street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand ; and while the lady who had lost it was enquiring at the bookseller's, if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door ; on which the bookseller said, " There is the man who sold it me ; and the lady replied, " He is a thief, " and has stolen it."

The bookseller calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady now earnestly looking at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was; on which she burst into tears, and said, "I am sorry for you, and for your poor father: you are the cause of all his unhappiness." The bookseller, happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet-street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop; but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with: and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued, but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at this disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered awhile; but being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying, "Run, run, fly for your life; for you are pursued, and if you are taken, you will be hanged." He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he

he again lay down, but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamt that a person came to him, saying, "Young man, you must go away from hence; for were I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall on me; so go away, or I will fetch a constable, who shall oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out, "Who is there?" but receiving no answer, he laid down again, and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows: "O son! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me."

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but, as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and, going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance, he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a public-house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him; wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new clothes, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking, at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new clothes.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in

guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery-lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would mend his conduct.

Powis, being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, who advised him to go to the West Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger; and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Powis, accepting the offer, was properly fitted out and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship; but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and having stolen a handsome suit of clothes, he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive; the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat he set off towards London; but near Deptford, he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public-house with them, where they told him that a friend of theirs had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber.

Powis saw through the artifice, and calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody: but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer proceeding to London, changed his clothes, and took to his former practice of house-breaking,

ing, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to the house, where he had formerly been at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken.

As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread at the consequence, that they conducted him again to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box money, he got into company, and spent the whole, after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen: and soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of "Thieves!" A man ascending a ladder, being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling; but failing in this, the other cried, "There is the thief!" Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining, but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation the carpenter, going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the Round-house; but on the following day, his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually, that the offence was forgiven, and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation.

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welch gentleman of large fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lay in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Powis

Powis being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he found a small box remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than 200*l.* all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box.

Powis being possessed of this booty, consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, the acquaintance kept the jewels; and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and, being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners, made such interest, that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious boy into his house, where he continued about seven months, when meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and sixpence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

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In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened, villain broke open the coffee-house in Chancery-lane, which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles, which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half a crown.

On the following evening, he went again to the office, and hid himself under the staircase: but, being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of which he had been charged; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford-lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office, which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening into the Spa-fields, near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in New Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him "Thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again."

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and on the following night, he robbed another house

house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's-inn Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions to celebrate his birth-day, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company.

The girl paying no attention to his addresses, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grandfather in Yorkshire, would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said, he shewed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see the Beggar's Opera he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and, on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew; and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and sixpence, so
that

that only eighteen-pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Fetter-lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself. About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but, failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed the family. Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; but not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses; circumstances of severity that could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour: but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised, but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 9th of October, 1732, along with William Shelton, at the age of 22 years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

ISAAC and THOMAS HALLAM,

MURDERERS AND HIGHWAYMEN, HANGED IN LINCOLNSHIRE, UPON THE SPOT WHERE THEY COMMITTED THEIR CRIME.

THOUGH this case, with that of Eleanor Beare, are extremely interesting, yet we could find no collected accounts of any particulars of their extraordinary lives. Professing to render our work more copious than any on the same subject, which may have gone forth before us, we carefully put together every mention made in the old periodical publications of many notorious offenders, hitherto passed over, and form them into regular reports, some of which will be found equally interesting with any in our Calendar.

Isaac and Thomas Hallam were brothers, and they had long, with too much success, carried on a scheme of daring robberies, and perpetrated cruel murders, inso-much that government offered a reward for their apprehension.

They were at length taken and charged with the murder of William Wright, a youth of only eighteen years of age, who was found in a post-chaise at Faldingworth-Gate, near Market Raisin, in Lincolnshire, with his head almost severed from his body, covered over with the seat-cloth, and his pockets rifled.

In consequence of the proclamation, extraordinary search was made after these desperate depredators; but they baffled their pursuers nearly a month. At length they were taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of the city of Lincoln.

Among their various outrages, they, in mere wantonness, forced a post-boy to blow his horn, then told him he had sounded his own death-peal, and immediately cut his throat, as well as that of his horse, and the bodies of the man and the beast were next morning found close together. From this detestable barbarity, the post-boys of Lincoln mustered with horns on their entrance into Lincoln, and greeted them with their loudest blasts; where-upon,

upon, now stung with remorse, one of them was observed to weep.

They were convicted of the murders of William Wright and Thomas Gardner; and afterwards confessed that they committed, in company with each other, sixty-three robberies and one murder, exclusive of that for which they were condemned to die. Yet, did these shocking offenders attempt to evade their punishment. They procured a case knife, which they notched like a saw, in order to cut off their irons; and then, with a spike-nail, they began digging through the wall of their prison, but were detected. In passing to the place of execution of Isaac, which was the spot where they had murdered the post-boy, this unfortunate brother fell into violent agonies and perturbation of mind. At the gallows, there being no clergyman to attend them, he called to one of the spectators to assist him in his devotions, which the good man readily complied with, and he prayed with much fervency. Thomas was ordered to be carried farther, to the place where they had murdered Mr. Wright; but on his seeing his brother turned off, and struggling with life, he shrieked out in a dreadful manner. He then was drawn to Falingworth-gate, where he died in dreadful agonies of mind; and both acknowledged the justice of their sentence, calling upon the Almighty to forgive their sins. This execution took place on the 20th day of February, 1733.

WILLIAM ALCOCK,

FIRST ABANDONED, AND THEN MURDERED, HIS WIFE. EXECUTED AT
NORTHAMPTON, MARCH 9, 1733.

THIS unnatural and cruel man was an inhabitant of the town of Bourn, in Lincolnshire. He had been married only two years, when he left his wife, who was afflicted with the palsy, giving out that the cause of absence was in consequence of having found her in bed with another man. He travelled to Colchester, married again, and set up his business, that of a miller, in which he was successful.

cessful. He employed a man of the name of Peck, as his assistant, but upon some words arising between them, Alcock discharged him, without suffering him to complete the job he had in hand. Peck replied, "I'll do as good a job for you: for I have heard you have a wife in Lincolnshire, and I'll travel the kingdom over, till I find her, and send her to you." Upon this he instantly set out, and bent his course in order to fulfil his threat. He enquired at every town he came to in Lincolnshire, until he actually found Mrs. Alcock. In effecting this, he spent nearly two years; and to defray his expenses, he occasionally stopped for a few days to work: and when his wages were expended, in his travels, he worked again; thus persevering until he had accomplished his determined purpose. The parish officers of Bourn, who had the maintenance of the deserted woman to provide, received Peck's information, and dispatched two of the parishioners to Colchester, with whom Alcock entered into a compromise, on the following conditions: to pay down twenty pounds, and within a month thirty pounds more, and to fetch away his wife from Bourn. He accordingly arrived there on the 22d of August, 1732, on a good horse, and a new pillion for his wife to ride on behind him. He, however, tried every means to induce the officers to keep her, offering a yearly sum sufficient for that purpose, and observed that, "she was so disagreeable to him, that he would rather be hanged, than take her again."

Finding his offers all rejected, he set off with her on the 24th, and on the next day the body of the unfortunate woman was discovered in a ditch under a willow-tree, near Pilsgate, in the parish of Barnack, in Northamptonshire, and about eight miles from Bourn. It appeared that she had been strangled with a small cord, which but just met about her neck; and the pillion was found a little distance from the body. The murderer immediately proceeded to Colchester; and on the 28th was apprehended by officers from Bourn, and the next day fully committed to gaol.

Though convicted on the clearest evidence, yet this obdurate man, even to the last moment of his existence, denied

denied the justice of his sentence ; and his behaviour, during the short interval allowed prisoners to make their peace with God, evinced the most shocking depravity. He constantly refused the consolations of devotion, and paid no attention to the warnings of a clergyman, who at length desisted from farther exhortations. On the morning of his execution, he drank to intoxication;* yet, on coming out of the prison, he sent for a pint of wine, which being refused him by the sheriff, he would not get into the cart which waited to convey him to execution, until the money given for that purpose was returned to him. On the road to the gallows he sung part of the old song of Robin Hood, adding to each verse, the chorus of derry down, &c. At intervals he swore, kicked, and spurned, at any person who touched the cart. When tied up to the fatal tree, he kicked off his shoes, to avoid a well known proverb; and being told by a person in the cart with him, and who wished, thus late, to reclaim him, that he had much better read and repent, than thus vilely swear and sing, he struck the book out of this humane man's hands, damned the spectators, and called for wine. During the singing of psalms, and reading of prayers, this monster was employed in talking and nodding to his acquaintance; telling some to remember him, others to drink to his good journey; and with his last words, he inveighed against the injustice of his case.

He was hanged at Northampton, amid the groans and detestation of many thousand spectators.

SARAH MALCOLM,

(Temple Laundress,).

EXECUTED IN FLEET STREET, MARCH 7, 1773, FOR THE MURDER OF HER EMPLOYER, AND ROBBING A SET OF CHAMBERS.

THE Temple, and the other Inns of Court, were built for the accommodation of lawyers alone. They contain two, three, and some of them four rooms each, fitted up for single gentlemen; there being no kind of accommodation for a

* The gaoler deserved whipping, who suffered this wretch to be supplied with liquor to such an extent.

family in any of them. Yet, from the fashion of the men of law taking private houses, where they could also transact their business, and bring up their families, chambers were neglected, and the owners, preferring tenants of no legal skill to no tenants at all, let them out to any that offered; and consequently many private people creep about the Inns of Court; and women too, reconciling each inconvenience, often presided at the dinner table, where of late lay clients' papers, musty parchments, and the dry volumes of the law, tumbled together in dust and disorder.

Upon each set of chambers is a kind of entailment, under the name of A LAUNDRESS, who now and then sweeps the rooms, and daily makes the supposed students' bed, for the remuneration of a yearly servant. Thus one of these laundresses, with single men, will attend six, eight, and even ten, sets of chambers; and, calculating the average hire of female servants in London at ten pounds, the place of a laundress, including the variety of little pilferings which the heedless owner does not miss, with the comfortable profits of washing, mending, &c. &c. may be, in several instances, valued at 100*l.* a year.

One of these laundresses was Sarah Malcolm, who basely betrayed her trust, and murdered her employer.* Her father was a man of some property in the county of Durham, where she was born in the year 1711.

Being a man much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate soon became mortgaged, except his wife's jointure. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity; where he purchased a place in one of the public offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people.

Our unfortunate heroine being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem.

Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London, where his wife dying, in a short time, he married another; who not

* Laundresses have always a key of the chambers they attend. To abuse this confidence in a midnight murder and robbery is most horrible!

being

being agreeable to the daughter's disposition, occasioned a separation between them.

In consequence of the above, Sarah, who was now arrived at woman's estate, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station she lived in many reputable families, with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her, she became a servant at the Black Horse, a public-house near Temple Bar: where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Traey, a woman of light character, and two young men who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander.

From this house she was recommended as a laundress, and to take care of gentlemen's chambers in the Temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She officiated also as a chair-woman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who had chambers also in the Temple, where she kept two servants, Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price, about seventeen.

This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah of robbing her chambers, in order as it was supposed by dint of money, to gain one of the Alexanders as a husband.

On Saturday, the 3d of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening under a pretence of visiting Mrs. Harrison, who was just recovered from a fit of sickness, Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time.

It was generally imagined the true meaning of her visit was either to secrete the key of the door, or to spoil the lock, so as to gain an easier admittance to put her diabolical design into execution; as the horrid murders were either committed that night, or early the next morning.

On Sunday, the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Kerril, after which, they went to the Commons together: during which time, Mrs. Love (already mentioned) coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers could not gain admittance: after waiting a considerable

siderable time she went down stairs, when, meeting with Mrs. Oliphant, she enquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family? who replying she had not, it made her conclude, that the old maid, Elizabeth Harrison, was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news.

Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer (executrix to Mrs. Duncomb,) who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear; when seeing Sarah Malcolm at the Bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her, and begged she would fetch a smith to force open the door, to which she immediately consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressing her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement, which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself, then went in, and the first object that presented itself in the passage, was the body of Ann Price, laying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

In the next room lay Elizabeth Harrison, strangled; and in an adjoining room the poor old lady lay, also strangled on her bed: the box where she kept her money being broke open, and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only.

The neighbourhood became soon alarmed with the news of these shocking murders. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril happening to pass at the time, and seeing a crowd of people about the chambers, enquired what was the matter. And they were informed of the shocking murders committed on Mrs. Duncomb and her servants.

As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril, "Mrs. Duncomb was your Sarah's acquaintance," which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent Garden, these horrid murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who seemed to be unanimous in the opinion, that they must have been committed by some laundress, who was well acquainted with the chambers.

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From the coffee-house, these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpie, in Essex-street; where they continued till about one in the morning, when they both returned to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance, they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting a fire. "So, Sarah, (says Mr. Kerril) are you here at this time of the morning? You knew Mrs. Duncomb; have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?"—"No," said she; "but a gentleman who had chambers under her has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected." He replied thus: "Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things, and begone."

In the interim, two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied, it was her own. Mr. Kerril, then missing two waistcoats, inquired what she had done with them, on which she called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas, at Mr. Williams's, in Drury-lane, praying his forgiveness, and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them.

Mr. Kerril acquainted her that he was not so much displeased on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concerned in the murders. He then observed a bundle lying on the floor, and she told him that it was her gown, with some linen tied up in it, which she hoped decency would forbid him opening, and which he accordingly declined.

On a stricter search, he missed several things belonging to himself, and finding others, not his property, he immediately ordered the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape.

When she was gone, he requested Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and looking into the close-stool, they discovered more linen, and a silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they informed the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were

ordered immediately to find her again at all events, and, calling to their brother watchmen at the gate, they luckily found she had not left the Temple, and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shewn the bloody tankard and linen, and asked who they belonged to, she asserted that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and, making some other frivolous excuses, she was again ordered into custody of the watchmen till morning.

On searching her in the watch-house, a green silk purse, containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate.

On her entering Newgate, she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and inquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, a turnkey, that it would cost a guinea; she replied, that she could send for a friend that would raise two or three guineas, if necessary. She then went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and on searching her, he found a bag concealed under her hair containing 20 moidores, 18 guineas, 5 broad pieces, (one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each,) a half broad piece, five crowns, and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she had the money, she replied it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; "but, Mr. Johnson," says she, "I'll make you a present of it, if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and, therefore, I only desire you to let me have three-pence or sixpence a day, till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself." He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in the court on her trial.

She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear that the tankard belonged to her grandmother; adding, that was all

all she wanted, for as to the rest she could do well enough; she said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgot; but that she feared they were not to be depended on. She then (confiding in Johnson) put a piece of mattrass in her hair, to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent a discovery.

She afterwards told Johnson, that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs while they committed the act; but that she was no way concerned in the murder.

She also said, that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders before mentioned, who she said were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt, even after her condemnation.

Soon after her commitment to Newgate, she declared herself a dead woman; and it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person was appointed as a guard on her.

Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison; but he gave it as his opinion, that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and that the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits.

When questions were asked her, she prevaricated so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintance to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying, she should die with pleasure now they were taken.

They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out, "Ay, these are the persons that committed the murder." Then, turning to Mary Tracy, she said, "You know this to be true; see what you have brought me to; it is through you, and
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the two Alexanders, that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow ; you all declared you would do no murder ; but, to my great surprise, I found the contrary."

When she was requested one day, by some gentlemen in the press-yard, to make a full discovery of this bloody transaction, she replied, with great warmth, " After I am laid in my grave, it will be found out." They then inquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any further confession : she answered, " that as she was not concerned in the murder, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins."

When brought to her trial, the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, with the two watchmen, and many other witnesses, so that not a person in the whole court entertained a doubt of her guilt. When called on for her defence, she spoke to the following purport :

That she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but that she was entirely innocent of the murder ; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself ; that they met at Mr. Kerril's chambers on the Sunday before the robbery was committed, he being from home when the robbing Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. " No," says Tracy, " there are the two Alexanders will help us." That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme in execution on the following night.

That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill, with whom she staid a short time, and then went to meet Mary Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately, to which she objected as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see, and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her ; that she met the maid on the stairs, with a
blue

blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-posset, who inquired who those people were that followed. She told her they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, "Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left a-jar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back." That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she, going down again, met the maid coming up, who inquired if she had spoke to Mrs. Betty; she answered, No; and going down, spoke with Tracy and Alexander; then went to her master's chambers, where staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock, they heard Mr. Knight come in, and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen when they cried the hour.

About two, another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up the stairs. Soon after, she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out and said, "now is the time." Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned: one of them called to her softly, "Hip! how shall I shut the door?" She replied, "it is a spring lock; pull it to, and it will be fast," which they accordingly did.

That they then proposed sharing the money upon the stairs, to which she objected; they then went under the arch by Fig-tree-court, and she inquired how much they had got, when they informed her, that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver, in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things, amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds.

That they then informed her that they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen, for her share, they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money under ground, and
not

not appear to possess any; and that they then appointed a meeting at Greenwich, which was afterwards forgot.

Her defence being ended, the jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty.

While under sentence of death she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits, which appeared to be attended with agonies, expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits, the keeper inquiring what was the matter, she replied, that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet-street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this, the keeper told her "that could not be the truth, as he made her acquainted with the place where she was to die, on the dead warrant's coming down; therefore, it was not probable that it could have such an effect on her at this time." He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommended her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply.

About ten o'clock the same evening, she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die the next day, exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she accordingly did for a considerable time. After which, calling to him again, she said, "Your time is short as well as mine, and I wish I was to go with you: as to the ignominy of your fate, let not that trouble you; none but the vulgar will reflect either on your friends or relations; good parents may have unhappy children, and pious children may have unhappy parents; neither are answerable for the other. As to the suddenness of our death, consider, we have had time to prepare for it, whereas many die so suddenly, that they have not time to call for mercy."

The bell-man coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then throwing him a shilling, bid him call for a pint of wine.

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Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly, yet during the time of her being in Newgate, there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she was brought up in the Roman Catholic religion ; which suspicion is confirmed by a letter she received from a priest of that persuasion a few days before she suffered ; though it is certain, from the last actions of her life, that she adhered to no principles of religion whatever.

Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her ; so that, instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she daily added to her other crimes the sin of hypocrisy.

On the morning of execution, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the ordinary and another gentleman who attended, with much sincerity.

When in the cart, she wrung her hands and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction.

At the place of execution, she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the Divine will ; but when the ordinary, in his prayers, recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off, she turned towards the Temple, crying out, " Oh ! my master ! my master ! I wish I could see him ;" and then, casting her eyes towards heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

WILLIAM GORDON,

HIGHWAYMAN,

ON WHOSE BODY, AFTER EXECUTION, AN EXPERIMENT WAS MADE TO
BRING HIM TO LIFE.

THIS malefactor was brought up to the business of a butcher, but for 20 years previous to his execution had
been

been a reputed highwayman. He was tried at Chelmsford for a desperate attack and robbery in Epping Forest, but escaped conviction by proving an alibi.* He brought

* This is a common and dangerous defence, yet it seldom succeeds, from the facility with which the accused can suborn men, hardened like themselves in scenes of iniquity, to swear the prisoner, at the time when the robbery had been stated to have been committed, was elsewhere. Too often, however, have prosecutors erred in the identity of the persons by whom they had been plundered; in which case, nothing short of a well-substantiated alibi can impeach their evidence.

The writer of this article, excited by the case of two unfortunate young men, paid his half-crown (a most disgraceful practice) for a seat in the gallery of the Old Bailey, in order to witness their trial, and to view the effects of an alibi which he heard would be set up against the evidence of a gentleman of title, and filling a high situation in the law.

The prosecutor, in this case, was Sir Thomas Davenport, and the accused, ——— Smith, who kept the Assembly Rooms, at Kentish Town, near London, at the time of his apprehension; and ——— Brown, the son of a widow, the landlady of a reputable public-house, in Chapel-street, Bedford-row.

In the year 1785, these innocent young men were brought to the bar of that awful tribunal, in heavy irons, charged with robbing, on the highway, Sir Thomas and Lady Davenport. Sir Thomas, his head covered with his legal wig, on the top of which was the black patch of the King's Serjeants of the Court of Common Pleas, swore, that on a certain evening, a few weeks before, and about twilight, on the Uxbridge road, the prisoners at the bar, one of them mounted on a brown and the other on a grey horse, stopped his carriage, in which were his lady and himself, and putting them in fear of their lives, presented pistols, and demanded his money, which he immediately gave them. Mr. Garrow, then a young counsel, acting in behalf of the prisoners, with much diffidence to the learned Serjeant, cross-examined Sir Thomas, observing, that human nature was liable to mistake objects injuring them, especially at the time he was robbed, and wished him to be positive as to the identity of the prisoners. The witness, upon this, turned round, and fully viewed them, saying, "As far as a man can swear to another, the prisoners at the bar robbed me, as I have described."

Lady Davenport was next called, and she also swore to the prisoners.— Then came forward the coachman and footman of Sir Thomas, who corroborated the evidence of their master and mistress.

Two horses, of the colour described to have been rode by the highwaymen, were brought to the court-yard of the Old Bailey, and sworn to be the same, according to the best of the belief of the witnesses, on which the prisoners were mounted.

This was the evidence on the part of the crown, a case so strong, that every casual spectator supposed it would justly warrant the jury in finding the accused guilty. Being called upon for their defence, they handed up a written statement of their case, the import of which was, that on the evening of the supposed robbery, they were at their respective homes. To substantiate this plea, a number of respectable inhabitants of Kentish-Town deposed, that the day of the robbery sworn to was the anniversary dinner of a club, of which they were members, held at the house of the prisoner Smith; that he was attending upon them from the time of dinner until midnight, and never out of their club-room a single half hour at a time. Four or five had already sworn to this, adducing
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a number of evidences to prove that he was in Ireland when this robbery was committed.

William Gordon was convicted at the Old Bailey, of a highway robbery on Mr. Peters, under-treasurer of the Temple, between Knightsbridge and Hyde-park Corner, whom he robbed of his hat, wig, watch, and a gold ring; and being at the time in a state of intoxication, he was soon apprehended, and had no other plea to offer, but that he was drunk.

What rendered this criminal's case sufficiently remarkable to find a place in these volumes, was a report circulated that he had cut his throat, just before he was carried out to execution, and that a surgeon sewed it up. The cause of this report was as follows:

Mr. Chovot, a surgeon, having, by frequent experiments on dogs, discovered, that opening the windpipe would prevent the fatal consequences of being hanged by the neck, communicated it to Gordon, who consented to the experiment being made on him. Accordingly, pretending to take his last leave of him, the surgeon secretly made an incision in his windpipe; and the effect this produced on the malefactor was, that when he stopt his mouth,

the stronger circumstances to corroborate their testimony, and many more were behind, ready to do the same; when the court interposed, by observing, that the alibi, respecting Smith, was clearly substantiated. In behalf of Brown proof was also adduced, that he was, on the same evening, serving in his mother's bar room.

Judge Heath, in summing up the case, observed, that had Sir Thomas remained in court, he would himself have been convinced, that he was mistaken in the identity of the prisoners. No imputation, however, could be thrown upon the evidence farther, than that all of them were too positive. Sir Thomas, doubtless convinced they were the men that robbed him, was followed by his lady and servants; and when we are told that Smith and Brown were intimate friends, being both publicans, and that they had sometimes rode out together on horses similar to those sworn to, and which were actually their own property, there is some reason to excuse the mistake; but it should be a most serious caution to prosecutors of men, charged with a crime which affects life, in giving their evidence of the identity of the persons of the accused.

These young men had borne irreproachable characters, and the miseries entailed upon them in this world, arising from their being thus innocently arraigned, is the most melancholy part of this note. Smith sunk into despondency, and soon died. Brown, also, stung with shame, left his aged mother, and went abroad. Had they borne up against their misfortune, a very few years, their minds might have been fully set at ease; for the robbers of Sir Thomas Davenport were convicted of another offence, and in the cells of Newgate, confessed that they, mounted on the same coloured horses, were the men who robbed him!!!

nostrils, and ears, air sufficient to prolong life, issued from the cavity. When he was hanged, he was observed to retain life, after the others executed with him were dead. His body, after hanging three quarters of an hour, was cut down, and carried to a house in Edgware road, where Chovot was in attendance, who immediately opened a vein, which bled freely, and soon after the culprit opened his mouth and groaned. He, however, died, but it was the opinion of those present at the experiment, that had he been cut down only five minutes sooner, life would have returned. He suffered along with James Ward and William Keys, for a highway, and with William Norman, for a street robbery, on the 27th of April, 1733.

A month after the execution of Gordon, John Davis, who had frequently robbed in company with him, was brought to execution on the same tree from which Gordon was hanged. Davis feigned himself sick, and intreated the sheriff that he might not be tied in the cart on his road to Tyburn, and which was humanely granted. When the executioner was fastening the rope round the neck of John Jones, another malefactor to be then executed, Davis jumped out of the cart, made his way through the astonished spectators, and ran over two fields; but being knocked down by a countryman, he was brought back, tied up, and hanged. He confessed having committed various daring robberies, along with the notorious old offender, Gordon.

JOHN COLLINS,

(A murderer singularly cruel,)

EXECUTED AT EXETER, IN THE YEAR 1737.

To enter into the particulars of the unprecedented barbarity of this monster, would almost be an outrage on the feeling mind; yet do we deem it a duty, not to pass over murderers, without handing down their names, as a dreadful warning to posterity.

This man of blood lived in a village called Harledown, near

near Exeter, and was by trade a thatcher. He had kept company with a young woman named Jane Upcot, and who received his addresses, which appeared to be honourably offered. The account of the circumstances which led to the shocking catastrophe which we have reference to, does not disclose the manner in which the devil worked him up to put to death the object of his love. It was proved, that on the 16th of May, 1737, the villain murdered this Jane Upcot. He then, not glutted with shedding her blood, actually cut off the head from the body, tore out the heart, and stuck them on a spar-hook, with which he killed her; and then, fixing the instrument near the decollated body, left the horrid spectacle to the view of the passing traveller!!!

Nature sickens at the recital—let us therefore pass to some less inhuman malefactor—he deserved a severer death than the gallows.

CAPTAIN JOHN PORTEOUS,

CONVICTED OF MURDER, BUT MURDERED BY THE MOB.

THE fate of Captain Porteous engaged a nation's attention. Though by the law condemned to die, yet was he most foully murdered by a lawless mob. The royal proclamation was issued, wherein a large reward was offered for the apprehension of the murderers; and the magistrates of Edinburgh, the scene of the murder, were summoned to answer for their neglect, in not quelling the riot; fined, and rendered incapable of acting again in any judicial capacity. In such a mob as that which seized Porteous, it was difficult to fix upon an individual, and the deceased having rendered himself obnoxious to the people, the affair there rested.

John Porteous was born of indigent parents, near the city of Edinburgh, who bound him apprentice to a taylor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen, as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments,

plishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It happened at this time that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner : and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman taylor : but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time ; but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business ; by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they style captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place ; and the latter being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman ; and assumed all the consequence of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musquet, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families : he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed, we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city :

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates ; and having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery ; who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace, but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief. In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. Dawson died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray ; yet this wretch escaped unpunished : no notice being taken of the many instances of his barbarity.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was too much encouraged in. On these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

The

The condemnation and death of Porteous happened in the following most extraordinary manner :

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that time, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue-officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active person in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him ; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them (as they thought) in the Custom-House : but Wilson being a man of an enterprising spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went in company with one Robertson, and some more of his gang, to the Custom-House, when, breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the Barons of the Exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clark, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer ; when, just getting within the door, Wilson (though handcuffed) assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at one of the city gates just

as

as they were going to shut it : a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, Robertson meeting with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse ; and the same evening he got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safe in Holland.

We are informed that, in the year 1756, he was living, and kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the grass-market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous being apprehensive an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace. On which five companies of the Welsh fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time ; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others, at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men " Fire and be damned ;" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people ; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with
every

every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead on the spot; and many wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welsh fuzileers to enquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welsh fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when, being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of justiciary, previous to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

“Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or order his men to fire, was not acting consistent with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?”

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced, as their opinion, “That if it was proved that captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and if the said firing happened without orders from a magistrate properly authorized, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.”

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impanelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They

They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece ; that finding the men would not obey his commands, he drew off as many as he could ; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders. That, with a view to ascertain who had fired, he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected, and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the greatest ease.

They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty, and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this, the counsel for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over ; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading the riot-act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted.

The prisoner's counsel replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security, and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head, when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is, perhaps, unprecedented.

On the seventh of September, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard ;

they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here." They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when finding some difficulty in breaking open the door with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and, ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, "Where is the villain, Porteous?" He replied, "Here I am; What do you want with me?" To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass-market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in vain, they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, then throwing the other end over a dyer's pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, but being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

Thus ended the life of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of such great qualifications, that had they been properly applied, would have rendered him an ornament to his country, and made him exceedingly useful in a military capacity. His uncommon spirit and invincible courage would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity. But when he advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and instead of being the admiration of, he became despised and hated by, his fellow-citizens. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those in power not to abuse it; but, by an impartial

tial distribution of justice, render themselves worth members of society.

He was murdered at Edinburgh, September 7th, 1736.

JOHN TOTTERDALE,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, OCTOBER 5, 1738, FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

IN the history of this man's crime, we have again to present a cruel and premeditated murder of a good wife. On this strangely unnatural deed, we have already expatiated; and therefore, can only repeat our wonder and abhorrence of men taking away that life which was a comfort to their own.

This malefactor, who was a native of North Currey, in Somersetshire, after having been employed in the business of agriculture, came to London about the time that he had arrived at the years of maturity, and lived in several families as a servant, maintaining always a respectable character.

Having saved some money in service, he married, and took a public-house in the parish of St. John, Westminster, where he perpetrated the murder which cost him his life.

Coming home one evening somewhat intoxicated, he sat down to drink with two women who were in a room with his wife. Mrs. Totterdale quitting the room, her husband soon followed her, with a knife and fork in his hand; soon after which, the cry of murder was heard; when Daniel Brown, who lodged in the house, running up stairs, saw Totterdale stamp on his wife two or three times as she lay on the floor.

On this, Brown seized the knife and fork which Totterdale still held in his hand, and having got the woman into another room, she locked it, and he persuaded the husband to go down stairs.

Soon afterwards, Totterdale's passion increasing, he procured a key, with which he opened the door, when his wife was sitting at the foot of a bed, with the curtains

drawn to hide her: so that he did not at first observe where she was; on which, Brown waved his hand, intimating that she should retire; but she did not, being either afraid, or unable to move; and the husband discovering her, a few words passed between them, when he kicked her, caught hold of her feet, dragged her off the bed, and threw her down about seven of the stairs, where she lay senseless.

Terrified at this sight, Brown ran into his own room, where he staid three or four minutes, and then going down the stairs, found that Totterdale had dragged his wife into a room, and fastened the door; but Brown heard her say, "For Christ's sake Johnny! Johnny, for Christ's sake don't kill me!" Mr. Brown then went out, but found the woman dead when he returned, at the end of about an hour and a half.

The husband was now taken into custody, and the body of the deceased being examined by a surgeon, he found that nine of her ribs were broke, and that her right arm was stabbed in the joint, to the depth of four inches.

Totterdale being committed to the Gatehouse, was visited by his wife's sister, who said to him, "O John! John! how could you be so barbarous as to murder your poor wife?" In answer to which, he said, "The devil overpowered me; I was pushed on by the devil, both to begin and finish the deed—I cannot recal or undo what I have done; but I wish I could bring back my poor, unhappy, unprepared wife from the grave again."

Some of his acquaintance asked him why he did not attempt to make his escape after he had committed the murder, he replied that he had an intention of so doing, but as he was going out of the room, he imagined he heard a voice saying, "John, John, stay—What have you done? You cannot go off:" which supposed words deprived him of all possibility of effecting his escape.

Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, the evidence against him was so clear, that the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he was sentenced to die.

After conviction, he declared that he had no fear of
the

the disgraceful death that awaited him, and that he would willingly suffer any degree of torture, as an atonement, for the crime of which he had been guilty.

On being told that his name was included in the warrant for execution, he replied, "The Lord's will be done; I am ready to die, I am willing to die; only I beg of God that I may not (though I deserve it) die an eternal death: and though I am cut off from this world for my heinous offences, yet I hope it is not impossible that I should live for ever in a better state. I have been guilty of the unnatural murder of my poor wife: the Lord be more merciful to me than I was to her, or else I perish." He added, that he hoped those who had received injuries from him would forgive him; as he freely forgave those by whom he had been injured.

Totterdale found a generous friend in Mr. Paul, a brewer, who had served him with beer while in trade: for when in prison, he supplied him with the necessaries of life. He likewise provided for his two children, and took care to see the unhappy man buried by the side of his wife, agreeable to an earnest request he made in a letter written the day before his execution.

The behaviour of this wretched man, after conviction, and at the place of his death, was decent, devout, and resigned in a high degree. He appeared to be a sincere penitent; and admonished others not to indulge that violence of passion which ended in his destruction.

THOMAS CARR, and ELIZABETH ADAMS,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JANUARY 18, 1738.

WHEN men of education pursue a flagitious life, and bring themselves to a disgraceful death, we feel little pity for such malefactors.

Thomas Carr, when he committed the robbery for which he suffered, was an attorney at law, of eminence in the Temple; and Elizabeth Adams, a woman with whom he cohabited. He had been many years vestry-clerk of the parish

parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, a very respectable office.

On the 15th of October, 1737, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for robbing William Quarrington, of ninety-three guineas and a diamond ring, at the Angel and Crown Tavern, near Temple-bar, upon which they were found guilty, and sentence of death passed on them. Carr endeavoured to obtain the royal mercy, but the Privy Council replied, "That a flagrant breach of the law was greatly aggravated in being committed by a man professing the law."

On the 18th of January, 1738, thirteen miserable beings were carried from Newgate to Tyburn, there to suffer death for different offences; and among them were Carr and Adams, each in a mourning coach. They received the sacrament on the Sunday preceding; and both then, and at the place of execution, denied the fact for which they suffered. They were both remarkably composed for people in their dreadful situation, and just as the cart began to draw away, they kissed each other, joined their hands, and thus were launched into eternity.

The fate of Carr considerably engaged the public attention, and many different opinions were formed on the extent of his guilt. In the times in which he suffered, it was a fashion to court the muse, upon the exit of a remarkable, or notorious character; and, upon Mr. Carr, we find the following lines, which, at all events, will prove a novelty, as they have not been published since the year in which he was executed.

On seeing Mr. Carr, the Attorney, take coach for Tyburn.

Struck with surprise I view'd the daring wight
Intrepidly prepare for partial fight
With cloudy greatness like some noble slave
He look'd disdain on crowds that term'd him knave
While in my breast indignant passion rose
In sounds like those the short liv'd madness glows
"How equally unjust and hard the fate
"(From murder free and crimes against the state)
"To die for theft thou know'st not to conceal
"When thy fraternity *per legem* steal

"And

“ And did justice impartial decide (sans reproaches)
 “ They all by *St. Andrew* would ride in their coaches

Clifford's Inn July 24
 1738

N. B. “ We Lawyers ne'er make stops.”

JOHN RICHARDSON and RICHARD COYLE,

EXECUTED AT EXECUTION-DOCK, JAN. 25, 1788, FOR PIRACY AND MURDER.

THE crime of piracy is generally marked by murder. Richardson, to both these shocking characters, added that of a swindler, of no mean talents in deception. His memory will be particularly execrated by our female readers; for it will be found, that through the most consummate hypocrisy, he too often succeeded in seducing, and then abandoning, several of their sex.

John Richardson was an American, having been born at the city of New York, where he went to school until he was fourteen years old; he was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant-ship, commanded by his name-sake, Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connexion with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodging in Horsely-down, and soon spent all his money. On this, he entered as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but being weary of his situation, he soon quitted that station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country, with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him a hundred rix dollars. This letter

letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam; and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband had sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her; and having persuaded her to go the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys; but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years after this, he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may be reasonably supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connexion.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found the captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodgings at a farmer's he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holydays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. His offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length, accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his

his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour, that in a short time all of them were pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bridleman.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months, gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance, to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance; but he had reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from the father of the young lady; whom he had already seduced.

In a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with his request Richardson very cheerfully complied; but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300*l.* currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but

at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connexion, he told his wife and her relations, that not being fond of a country life, he would go to New York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection: but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder who was a quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife, with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted; on which one day he quitted his work, and went home to the house; but he had but just arrived there when he was followed by the old man who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied that he only came for an augur: to which the quaker said, "Ah! friend John, I do not much like thee: my wife knows nothing of thy tools, and I fear thou hadst some evil thoughts in thy head."

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work, without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that
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he was apprehensive that his wife had paid him already : on which Richardson said he would sue him for the debt, and desired him to consider, that if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the quaker paid his demand, but absolutely forbad him ever to come within his house again ; and Richardson promised to obey, and intended to have complied with the injunction.

About eight days afterwards the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid this journey the lady feigned an indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson, meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress who, the girl said, wanted to see him ; and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement he attended the lady, and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, and stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters ; and paying his addresses to the mother, he was so successful, that for four months while he continued there, he acted as if he had been the master of the house.

After this intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters ; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her ; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all ; for when she was alone with the offender she severely reproached him ; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment to her ; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with

with her other daughter. Incensed at this, she became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connexion with the other girl, was that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters; but said that if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young man to marry one of her daughters, and then the mother constantly teased Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized; but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one Captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of the owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he

he appeared, the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance ; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson being a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home ; and when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood, he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse, and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chesnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits ; but she said there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovered that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her ; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage-portion, and Richardson embarked, on a trading voyage, to Barbadoes :

does : but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with a Captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted ; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitt's ; but quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a hornpipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua. " True, (said Richardson,) but I am a " stranger here : I am a Creolian from Meovis."—To this the other asked, " Do you belong to the Richardsons at " Meovis, I know their character well."

Our adventurer knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son ; on which the other exclaimed, " You his son, and want money in Antigua ! no, no ; " only draw a bill upon your father, and I will engage " that my father shall help you to the money."

The project of raising money in this manner delighted Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above mentioned sum, and received the money.

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About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he intrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliment than his conduct had deserved: and he told Richardson that he might have any further sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and, on his arrival at Port Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a Jew merchant, which, with other goods that the Jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a vessel for Carthagená, where he disposed of them: but he never went back to discharge his debt to the Jew.

From Carthagená he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother, who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked him if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered him in the negative; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expecting to make some advantages of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expense, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship: at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to

to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother; however, Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent: on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity, it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham: but the sisters, unwilling to part with their newly found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother, who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate. Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham, where he mortgaged the estate for 300*l.* and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with Captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, his accomplice of the foul murder we have now to record.

Mr. Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain, and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but he at length agreed to take his share in the villany.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin.

cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him ; but getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some others of the sailors threw the captain overboard ; but, as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him ; as he did not, however, let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly, that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended to have refitted ; but some of the crew objecting to putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona, on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay to for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniano, an island under the dominion of Spain.

When they arrived at that place, they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions ; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board ; but during the night while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch, fell asleep : on which two of the boys hauled up a boat, and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the pirates who should have watched being awaked, he ran and called Richardson, whom he informed that the boys were gone ; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise ; they then hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and putting on board her such things as would be immediately necessary, they set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates ; but it being very dark, they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore : but when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing rabbits : for though the place is apparently little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him that he was master of a vessel which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated ; and in the mean time sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight at this place, Richardson sold the long-boat, and having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor : on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof for the benefit of the owners, and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England ; and Richardson would have been apprehended ; but, being upon his guard, and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoli, where he arrived in safety.

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At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta ; he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months : on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty, on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's galleys, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship. When the company were gone, the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge ; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon, where he remained three months, and was then put on board the packet-boat, and brought to Falmouth. He was conveyed to London ; and lodged first in the Marshalsea, whence he was removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old Bailey, received sentence of death, along with Coyle, for the murder of captain Hartley.

Richard Coyle was a native of Devonshire, and born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading-vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself, and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board various merchantmen ; he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sailing from, and returning
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to, the port of London. In this command he maintained a good character ; but meeting with misfortunes he was reduced to serve as mate, in different ships ; and at length sailed with captain Hartley, bound to the Levant, when he became acquainted with Richardson, as already related.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him, and in some letters to his friends confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him ; and having led a course of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which his life should end.

The above-mentioned malefactors were hanged at Execution-dock, on the 25th of January, 1738.

With regard to Coyle we do not find that he had been guilty of any notorious crime, except that for which he died ; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of irregularity, deception, fraud, and vice, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women of whom he pretended to be enamoured was alone deserving of the fate which finally fell to his lot.

WILLIAM UDALL,

(A Profligate Apprentice,)

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MARCH, 14, 1738.

THE father of this reprobate was an eminent distiller, in Clerkenwell, London. He gave his son a good education, and bound him apprentice to a watch maker, in Leadenhall-street, where he was idle, but soon learnt from some abandoned journeymen the trick of scraping gold from the inside of watch-cases, which he sold, and squandered away his ill-gotten pelf. His master died before he was detected, and he was turned over to another, whom he offended before he had served a quarter of a year. He then went to live with one Mr. Stanbridge,

Stanbridge, of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed.

He had not been long in the service of Stanbridge, before he connected himself with a number of young pickpockets, with whom he used to go out of an evening, and steal watches, swords, hats, and any thing they could lay their hands on, which they deposited with one Williams, in Hanging-sword Alley, Fleet-street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the booty with the young thieves.

Udall's father was apprised of his living in an irregular manner; but had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths as to become a robber. However, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into business in a very reputable way.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who having served his time to a barber, his friends likewise put him into business, and for some months the young fellows appeared attentive to the duties of their respective professions: but they had not quitted their old connexions; for they used to go almost every night to Drury-lane, to a house of ill-fame, which was kept by a woman named Bird.

In this place they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who taught them in the arts of gaming; so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had a great prospect of success in trade. Being in possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he sold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance.

Having dissipated all his money, his associates hinted to him that, as he was acquainted with a number of watch-makers, he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument. He followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project.

He had likewise another artifice, by which he frequently obtained money. He would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each; but take only half the money, till the purchasers were convinced
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of their goodness ; and as he knew that these watches would not go well they were always returned to be rectified ; on which he sold them to other people, and the original purchasers were defrauded.

At length Udall and Raby agreed to commence highwaymen, and, in consequence thereof, committed a number of robberies in and near Epping Forest, Finchley Common, &c. one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity.

These associates in wickedness having stopped the St. Alban's coach, robbed the passengers of about five pounds, and immediately put spurs to their horses ; but they had not rode far before Udall said, that a lady in the coach had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back, and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize.

This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead, and having robbed some other people the same evening, they hastened to Drury-lane, where they divided the spoil.

The companions in vice had another scheme, which was frequently successful. When the company was coming out of the theatres, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach, with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away, and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postilion, while Baker robbed the company ; but this was no sooner done, than the guard produced a horse pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground ; on which Baker shot the guard, so that he instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farm-house near Uxbridge, by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks before he recovered ;

recovered ; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach, as it was going over Turnham-green.

In a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime, Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch-street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few half-pence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceeding, and wishing to save him from an ignominious fate, procured him to be arrested and lodged in the Compter, hoping that when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law, he might be out of future danger ; but it happened that Ramsey, one of his old associates, was confined in the same prison at the same time, which coming to the knowledge of Udall's father, he got his son released.

Ramsey being enlarged soon afterwards, they met at an ale-house, and having resolved to go on the highway, they went to a livery-stables at London-wall, where they hired horses, and going on the Stratford road, procured a considerable booty in money and watches, from the passengers in several coaches.

Udall kept company with a woman named Margaret Young, who had likewise lived with several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings ; in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, and he was lodged in the house of a tipstaff, Mrs. Young swearing that the rings were the property of another man with whom she had cohabited.

During Udall's confinement, the supposed owner of the rings offered to decline the prosecution, if he would enter into a bond, never again to live with Mrs. Young ; this order he rejected, and an order was made for his commitment to the King's Bench ; but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tipstaff, by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand, for which they were all of them apprehended ; but Udall became
evidence

evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped the fate he had so frequently merited.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty, he casually met with Margaret Young, in company with the presumptive owner of the rings above-mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them, unless he would give him a note for four pounds. Udall complying with this demand, and being unable to pay the note when it became due, was arrested, and standing trial, was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's relations, who had been put to great expense on his account, refused to pay his debt, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him with saws and ropes, he made his escape, in company with another prisoner, named Man. While they were escaping, a neighbour would have stopped them, but that they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure Udall went to see his relations, and promised them that he would go to Holland, if they would only supply him with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and promised to remit him a sum once a year, towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad; but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash, than he went to a house of ill-fame in Charter-house-lane, where he spent the whole of the money.

Being thus impoverished, he and his fellow prisoner, Man, agreed to go on the highway; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach, and, returning to London, spent their ill-gotten gains in Charter-house-lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, five pounds, and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the Western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, and was so bruised as to be obliged to keep his bed for several days.

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When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and having supped at the castle at Holloway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and spent their money at their old place of resort in Charter-house-lane.

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort; on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house.

The runners of the prison being disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but these were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers.

Some days afterwards, when Man and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in search of prey, they met their old landlady, in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman said that they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk in company as far as Pancras, to drink at a public-house.

Having continued drinking some time, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty if he would assist in apprehending his companion, who had been confined for a large debt.

Udall said he was unwilling that Man should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached London, when the others might take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when he got into the fields he privately communicated what had passed to Man, and both of them turning round at the same instant, presented pistols, and threatened immediate destruction to the other parties unless they retired; which they thought it prudent to do for their own security.

The accomplices now committed several robberies in

the neighbourhood of Epping Forest ; and Udall having one night left his horse at a public-house on the forest, went to Man's lodgings in an absolute state of intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out, and locked the door on the pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion : but he immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who, entering the house, seized Udall in bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation ; and being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who would charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life ; conscious that his offences were so numerous and so aggravated, that he had no reason to expect an extension of the royal mercy in his favour.

He acknowledged that, from the time when he was first apprenticed, he had been a total stranger to common honesty ; and that his father had paid and expended above four hundred pounds in fruitless endeavours to save him from ruin.

JOHN TOON and EDWARD BLASTOCK,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, MAY 26, 1738, FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THE parents of John Toon were respectable inhabitants of Shoreditch, who having bestowed on him a liberal education, apprenticed him to a capital ironmonger, who had married his sister ; but not being happy in this situation, his father sent him to sea at the expiration of three years.

After

After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with his uncle, who was a carman, and in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably, that on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of four hundred pounds, which his relation had bequeathed him, as the reward of his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this money, he married the sister of Edward Blastock, and began to live in a most extravagant manner. When he had dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business.

This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield, the place of Blastock's birth ; but both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed.

Thus situated, he reflected on Blastock for advising him to take the inn ; and the other recriminated, by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissension, Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside. This brother, who was a dyer in Shoreditch, took little notice of the other ; but as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and met with his wife, who entreated him to stay dinner, to which he consented, and in the mean time he went to see the men at work, and finding one among them of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's book-keeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in this station in preference to himself, at a time that he was in circumstances of distress.

In this agitation of mind he returned into the house, and whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver-plate, and decamped : and having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined on the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty, and at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he

used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of near three pounds, with a girdle-buckle, and an etwee case.

He now imagined that he had got a valuable prize : but he at length pawned the buckle and etwee for twelve shillings, finding that the latter was base metal, though he had mistaken it for gold, and the former was set with crystal stones instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure, and going again on the highway, stopped and robbed several persons, among whom was a gentleman named Currier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality, but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice ; but said that he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger, but he must have his money, on pain of instant death ; and having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he dispossessed a gentleman of his money and a gold watch, which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage : but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas ; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that was all he could obtain.

Toon not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him ; but being some days afterwards upon Epping Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a booty, he went to the Green Man, by Lord Castlemain's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying that the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it.

This circumstance determined Toon never to lodge any of his future booties in the hand of this man. But it will now be proper to say something of the other malefactor, whose story makes part of this narrative.

EDWARD BLASTOCK was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire,

Yorkshire, and was apprenticed in London to a peruke-maker in the temple : and his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law, that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband.

But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, as he was at that time only eighteen years of age : on which he took two rooms in White Friars, where he began to practise in his business, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred more debts than he could discharge ; and consequently was obliged to decline business, and have recourse to the wretched life of a strolling player ; refusing to accept of a good situation which was offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Soon afterwards Blastock married, had several children, and being reduced to great distress, went into Yorkshire with Toon, as hath been already mentioned.

On his return from Yorkshire, he again engaged himself as a strolling player, and after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business ; which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal Blastock was seized with an indisposition, which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all her effects for his support ; and being visited by Toon during his illness, the latter again wished him to commence highwayman.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then came to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest ;

forest; but, in crossing Hackney Marsh, Toon's horse sunk in a slough, where he continued for so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure for that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols, he was prepossessed with the idea that his fate was speedily approaching; nevertheless he resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, and demanded his money.

The gentleman gave them eighteen shillings, saying it was all he had, and adding, "God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it." Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, expressing himself again in the same words.

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate, and their horses being almost tired, Blastock, stung with the guilt of his conscience, looked frequently behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was the terror of conscience, "which makes cowards of us all," that both of them agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape.

They now ran through a farm-yard, and taking the back road which leads from Highgate to Hampstead, they got to London on foot; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They now took a solemn oath, that, if either of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The stolen watch being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him that he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day.

Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice; but Blastock having agreed to

to

to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu.

When he arrived, which was about midnight, his wife and her sister were in bed: and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight.

This advice, however, he did not take; and in the morning. Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London.

On her return from this visit, she wept much, and expressed her wishes for the approach of night, that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out, under pretence of a visit to her husband, but instead thereof, she went to Toon's brother, who taking her before a magistrate, some peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where Blastock was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock, suspecting some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the party they were in search of.

On this the officers made a stricter search, and finding Blastock in the closet, took him into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, they carried him before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conducting him to Newgate, in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors being tried at the next sessions at
the

the Old Bailey, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death ; and, after conviction, were confined in the same cell : but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations of each other, the keeper caused them to be separated.

Toon behaved more penitently than malefactors usually do ; and Blastock exhibited an uncommon instance of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They embraced each other at the place of their death, and Blastock delivered the following speech to the surrounding multitude :

“ Dear Friends,

“ I do not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed ; no, I am sensible of my guilt, nor should I have made the world acquainted with this barbarous treatment, that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons.

“ Let my fate be an example to them, and never let any man in trade think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them ; for experience tells me, that had I done as I now advise you, I had never come to this end.

“ The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of a near relation ; for money will make those who pretend to be your nearest friends, your most bitter enemies. Never be persuaded to do any thing you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations ; rather take a man’s word, for those that will swear will lie. Not but that I believe there are some in the world, who would suffer the worst of deaths, rather than betray the trust reposed in them.

“ What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God is true ; and here, before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in peace with all mankind.

“ I im-

“ I implore the forgiveness of that God who has promised pardon and forgiveness to all those who sincerely repent ; and I hope I have done my best endeavours, while in prison, to make my peace with a justly offended God : I hope the moment I leave this troublesome world, my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

“ I conclude with my prayers for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery ; and taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of him who gave me being.”

JOSEPH JOHNSON,

(A general Thief for near Half a Century.)

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, JULY 19, 1738.

THIS hoary-headed sinner was permitted to take a longer course in villany, than has yet come under our notice. Long practice had made him an adept ; for to the pick-pocket he added the swindler. There was no species of robbery that this vile miscreant had not practised, and his dying words shewed him to have been perfectly incorrigible. His parents lived in the Old Jewry ; and, being very poor people, his education was totally neglected ; he kept bad company almost from his infancy, and becoming a pickpocket, while yet a child, he continued that practice till he was above twenty years of age.

He then took a new mode of defraud. He used to meet porters and errand boys in the streets, and by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods intrusted to their care. For one of those offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till, being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed

sessed of a stolen bank note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their liberty : for when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner ; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker ; on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all the places of public diversion. Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the crowd, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were sold, and the robbers escaped undetected.

In the summer time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, and the latter as his servant.

On their arrival at an inn, they inquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood ; and when they had learned the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the Esquire would be glad to speak with him at the inn ; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded : the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the Esquire in an elegant undress ; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day : but not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum ; and
assured

assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid ; and, by artifices of this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money ; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years : and, in one of his expeditions of this kind, got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued committing these kinds of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years ; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country ; but thought of exercising his talents in London.

Hereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the kept mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He attended the invitation, when she informed him, that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal ; but, while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, containing bank notes to the amount of five hundred pounds.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. When the discovery was made, immediate notice was sent to the bank to stop payment of the notes : and Johnson was actually changing one of them to the amount of fifty

pounds, when the messenger came thither. Hereupon he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, was capitally convicted; and this offence being without the benefit of clergy, he was sentenced to death.

After conviction he behaved in the most improper manner, reviling God, and appearing to have no adequate sense of the awful fate that awaited him.

He was hanged without making any confession of his crimes, and refusing to join in the customary devotions on such an awful occasion, though a sinner of above sixty years of age.

“ Be far away, inveterate sons of vice,
 “ That atheist crew who dare deny my God.
 “ And utter vile reproaches, to affront
 “ Th’ Omnipotent Creator. Such hellish deeds
 “ My soul abhors. O Lord, behold my frame,
 “ My inmost frame, and cleanse my sinful thoughts;
 “ Then ever guide me in thy perfect way,
 “ The way establish’d to eternal bliss.”

BENEFIT OF CLERGY.

This is a legal phrase, or technical term, which is necessarily often repeated in criminal reports, while numbers are not apprized of its full meaning, or its origin.

The dark clouds of barbarism, which succeeded the downfall of the Roman empire, having deeply effaced literary pursuits, the regular and secular clergy, with few exceptions, became the sole depositaries of books and learning. Ignorance is the foot stool of ambition and tyranny; and thus the priest ruled the ignorant mass of the people with a rod of iron; but as learning was slowly disseminated, the peoples’ eyes opened to their sordid delusions.

As it is natural to respect what we do not understand, the monks turned this advantage to good account, and it gradually became a principle of common law, that no clerk, that is to say, no priest, should be tried by the civil power; a privilege which was enjoyed and abused for several

several hundred years, until the council or parliament of Clarendon, provoked by murder, and other abominable crimes, set bounds to ecclesiastical enormities, by a salutary regulation of the subject.

But a law, so necessary, was evaded by the insolence and artifice of the proud à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, who, for his turbulence, was assassinated before his own altar, and the base pusillanimity of King John and his successors to the English throne, during a long period, equally disgraceful to monarch as to clergy.

A law was about this time made (kings being then nearly arbitrary) by which any person convicted of felony was exempt from punishment, "if he could read and write as a priest."

From this finesse, the artful monks, (for priests, from the time of Aaron down to Dr. Dodd, have ever been watchful of their own interest,) derived considerable riches by teaching prisoners to read and write, which acquirement, however odious and bloody their offences, rescued them from the penalty of the law, and the contrivers of this artful measure derived another advantage from it.

Every desperate adventurer, every bold man, became a ready and submissive tool to the church. This abominable imposition upon the people was continued until the reign of Edward VI. when priestcraft received some check.

But during the unnatural and bloody wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, the root of the noxious weed sprouted up in the ignorance and confusion of those distracted times. At length it was enacted, that no person convicted of manslaughter should claim the benefit of clergy, unless he be a peer of the realm, or actually in priest's orders; but by the 9th of James I. this partial and injurious exemption was entirely abolished.

It is a common opinion with numbers, that the words "Without benefit of clergy," mean, that no spiritual assistance shall be given, or a priest suffered to exhort the dying malefactor to confession of sin. The meaning simply is, that, even should a criminal be able to read and write, it shall not, in any degree, diminish his punishment,
and

and that he shall not now be entitled to any of those privileges he formerly enjoyed by the clergy.

Thus in our preface we have said, "Such persons as have had no opportunity of inquiring into the subject, will hardly credit the assertion, that there are above one hundred and sixty offences punished by death, or as it is denominated, Without benefit of clergy."—that is, for capital offences which the priest's art, once taught to the accused, of reading and writing, would exempt them from.

GEORGE MANLEY,

EXECUTED AT WICKLOW, IN IRELAND, IN AUGUST, 1738, FOR MURDER.

WE have no particulars, either of the life of this criminal, or the circumstances attending the horrid crime for which he was executed. We have, indeed, found a note, briefly naming the case of George Manley, but evidently inserted for the purpose of introducing a singular speech, made by him to the spectators, at the place of execution, which evinces strong natural abilities, and a knowledge of mankind, seldom found in criminals of his description. As we have never met with a dying speech so satirical and severe upon the general turpitude of mankind, we readily present it to our readers. Be it said, that this man was hardened, fearless, or mad; we exclaim with Shakspeare,

"If this be madness, there is method in it."

George Manley, having arrived at the place of execution, behaved in a strange and undaunted manner, addressing the spectators thus:

"My Friends,

"You assemble to see—What?—A man take a leap into the abyss of death. Look, and you shall see me go with as much courage as Curtius, when he leapt into the gulf to save his country from destruction. What then
will

will you see of me !—You say, that no man without virtue can be courageous. You see, I am courageous. You'll say, I have killed a man.—Marlborough killed his thousands, and Alexander his millions : Marlborough and Alexander, and many others who have done the like, are famous in history for Great Men. But I killed one solitary man.—Aye, that's the case.—One solitary man. I'm a little murderer, and must be hanged. Marlborough and Alexander plundered countries—They were Great Men. I ran in debt with the ale-wife, I must be hanged.

“ Now, my friends, I have drawn a parallel between two of the greatest men that ever lived, and myself; but these were men of former days. Now I'll speak a word of some of the present days : How many men were lost in Italy and upon the Rhine, during the last war, for settling a king in Poland ? Both sides could not be in the right ; they are Great Men ; but I killed a solitary man, I'm a little fellow. The King of Spain takes our ships, plunders our merchants, kills and tortures our men ; but what of all that ? What he does is good ; he's a Great Man, he is clothed in purple, his instruments of murder are bright and shining, mine was but a rusty gun ; and so much for comparison.

“ Now, I would fain know, what authority there is in Scripture for a rich man to murder, to plunder, to torture, and ravage whole countries ; and what law it is, that condemns a poor man to death for killing a solitary man, or for stealing a solitary sheep to feed his family. But bring the matter closer to our own country : What is the difference between running in a poor man's debt, and by the power of gold, or any other privilege, preventing him from obtaining his right ; and clapping a pistol to a man's breast, and taking from him his purse ? Yet the one shall thereby obtain a coach, and honours, and titles, &c. The other—What ?—A cart and a rope.

“ From what I have said, my brethren, you may, perhaps, imagine I am hardened ; but believe me, I am fully convinced of my follies, and acknowledge the just judgment of God has overtaken me : I have no hopes, but from the merits of my Redeemer, who I hope will have
mercy

mercy on me, as he knows that murder was far from my heart, and what I did was through rage and passion, being provoked thereto by the deceased.

Take warning, my dear comrades: Think! O think! what I would now give, that I had lived another life."

WILLIAM NEWINGTON,

EXECUTED AT TYBURN, AUGUST 26, 1738, FOR FORGERY.

THIS unhappy young man was a native of Chichester in Sussex, and was the son of reputable parents, who, having given him a good education, placed him with Mr Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship; and then coming to London, lived as a hackney-writer with Mr. Studley, in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener, in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life; and in the interval he lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married, if he had not been embarrassed by the commission of the crime which gives rise to this narrative.

It is presumed, that being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an act of Parliament then recently passed, had been made a capital offence.

He went to Child's coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and company, bankers, in Fleet-street, in the following words:

" Sir

“ Sir Francis Child and Comp.

“ Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or order, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of

Your humble servant,

THOMAS HILL.”

This draft he dispatched by a porter, but forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, the forgery being admirably executed, it would have been paid. The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, but found the gentleman was not there. About two or three hours afterwards, the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers, in Carter-lane, where he went, and told Newington that the bankers had refused to pay the note; “ Very well,” said he, “ stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you and rectify the mistake.”

After waiting near three hours, the porter began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards, calling in at the Fountain ale-house in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he fetched a constable, who lodged him in the Compter.

He was capitally convicted at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, and execution followed, as in all cases of forgery at this period.

RICHARD TURPIN,

EXECUTED AT YORK, APRIL 10, 1739.

THIS daring depredator was long the dread of travellers on the Essex road; but the finger of Providence we find continually pointed, in some direction, at sinners. Turpin was apprehended in consequence of wantonly shooting at a fowl; and his conviction the result of his brother refusing a single sixpence for the postage of his letter!

Richard was the son of John Turpin, a farmer at Thackstead, in Essex; and, having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel; but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality

of his manners. On the expiration of his apprenticeship he married a young woman of East Ham, in Essex, named Palmer, but he soon took to the practice of stealing his neighbours' cattle, which he killed and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles, of Plaistow, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but, learning that the peace officers were in search of him, he made his escape.

Having found means to inform his wife where he was concealed, she furnished him with money, when he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was successful, till a party of custom-house officers deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

He then connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, whose depredations were committed chiefly on Epping Forest, and its neighbourhood; but not succeeding to their expectation, they commenced housebreakers. Their first attack was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money in his possession.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton, who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds; whereupon they agreed to rob her; and one of them knocked at the door, whilst the rest, forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

Turpin then demanded what money was in the house, and the owner hesitating to tell him, the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her treasure; when the robbers possessed themselves of above four hundred pounds, and decamped.

Some little time after this, they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking, and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it; on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, son-in-law, and servant maid, they robbed the house of above seven hundred pounds, and retired with their prize, which amounted to above eighty pounds for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined

mined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping Forest ; but Turpin having gone to London to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree, that he forgot the appointment. Nevertheless, the rest of the gang set out on the expedition, and after ransacking the lower part of the house, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and among the rest a china punch-bowl, from whence dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, with which they effected their escape. They now went to London in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton, in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and having knocked at the door, they rushed into the house, and found him with his wife and friends playing at cards in the parlour. A part of the gang stood guard over them, while the others attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and stole above a hundred pounds, exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the maid-servant ran up stairs, and called out "Thieves !" but they secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuables they had not before taken. Finding some minced pies, and some wine, they sat down to regale themselves ; and compelled each of the company to drink a glass of brandy.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her. Having packed up their booty they departed, declaring that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon, in Surrey, and stole eleven guineas, with jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

They next concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence, of Edgware, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, when, not finding money and plate sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, and one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him. The maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, blew out her candle to screen herself; but being found by one of the miscreants, he compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force.

Though a proclamation was issued, promising a pardon to any one of the offenders who would impeach his accomplices, and a reward of fifty pounds, these robbers continued to bid defiance to the laws. On the 7th of February, six of them assembled at the White Bear Inn, in Drury-lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer, near Mary-le-bone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, and another in the stable, whom they threatened to murder if they were not perfectly silent. Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a sentry while the rest rifled the house of a considerable sum of money, valuable linen, and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon, a reward of an hundred pounds was offered for the apprehension of the offenders: in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains; and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country.

On a journey towards Cambridge, he met a man genteelly dressed, and well mounted; and expecting a good booty, presented a pistol, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knowing Turpin, burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What, dog eat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin, if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company."

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These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and became so well known, that no public-house would receive them as guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's Oak and the Loughton road, on Epping Forest, where they made a cave, large enough to receive them and their horses.

This cave was enclosed within a thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could see passengers on the road, while they themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they robbed such a number of persons, that even the pedlars carried fire-arms for their defence. Turpin's wife supplied them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay, in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive fourteen pounds for corn. King said it was a pity to rob such pretty girls; but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return, they stopped a Mr. Bradele, and took his watch, money, and an old mourning ring, but returned the latter; he then asked them what he must give for the watch; on which King said, "You must pay six guineas for it: we never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial, in Birchin-lane.

On the 4th of May, 1737, Turpin was guilty of murder. A reward of an hundred pounds having been offered for apprehending him, one Thomas Morris, a servant of Mr. Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, accompanied by a higgler, set off in pursuit of him. Turpin mistaking them for poachers, said, there were no hares near that thicket: "No," said Morris, "but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun, required him to surrender, when Turpin spoke to him as in a friendly manner, gradually retreating till, having seized his own gun, he shot him dead on the spot, and the higgler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This murder being represented to the Secretary of State, a proclamation was issued by government, describing the person of this notorious depredator, to avoid which Turpin went further into the country, in search of King,
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and with a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London in the dusk of the evening. Near the Green Man, on Epping Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, on a very fine horse, which, Turpin's horse being jaded, he obliged the rider to dismount, and exchange.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed, but Mr. Major being advised to print handbills immediately, the landlord of the Green Man received notice that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost, had been left at the Red Lion, in Whitechapel. About eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse, and take him away: on which he was seized, but was told that he should have his liberty if he would discover his employer; he said, that a stout man, in a white duffil coat, was waiting for the horse in Red Lion-street; on which the company going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol, and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance, and riding towards the spot, King cried out, "Shoot him, or we are taken;" on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out, "Dick, you have killed me;" which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be met with at a house near Hackney-marsh; and, on inquiry, it was found that he had been there on the night he rode off, lamenting that he had killed King, who was his most faithful associate.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody, and among the rest, the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with blood-hounds. Turpin perceiving them, mounted an oak-tree, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to retreat into Yorkshire. Going first to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses, for which he was taken into custody, but escaped, and hastened to Welton, in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman, often accompanying the neighbouring gentry on their hunting and shooting parties; and one evening on a return from one of those

those expeditions, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this, Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun, he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed, and the offender was carried before a bench of justices, then assembled at Beverley, who demanded security for his good behaviour, which he being unable or unwilling to give, was committed to Bridewell.

On inquiry it appeared, that he made frequent journies into Lincolnshire, and on his return always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured that he was a horse-stealer and highwayman. On this the magistrates demanded who he was, where he had lived, and what was his employment. He replied in substance, that about two years ago he had lived at Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher, but having contracted several debts, for sheep that proved rotten, he was obliged to abscond.

The magistrates, not being satisfied with this tale, caused inquiry to be made in Lincolnshire, the result of which was, that John Palmer was well known, though he had never carried on trade there: that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace-officers: and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York Castle, where he had been about a month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and likewise a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison, he wrote a letter to his brother in Essex, signed John Palmer, which being returned, unopened, to the Post-office, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a schoolmaster, who, having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his
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his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; by which it was discovered that the supposed John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin. Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners.

When brought to trial, he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank to make interest that his sentence might be remitted, and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

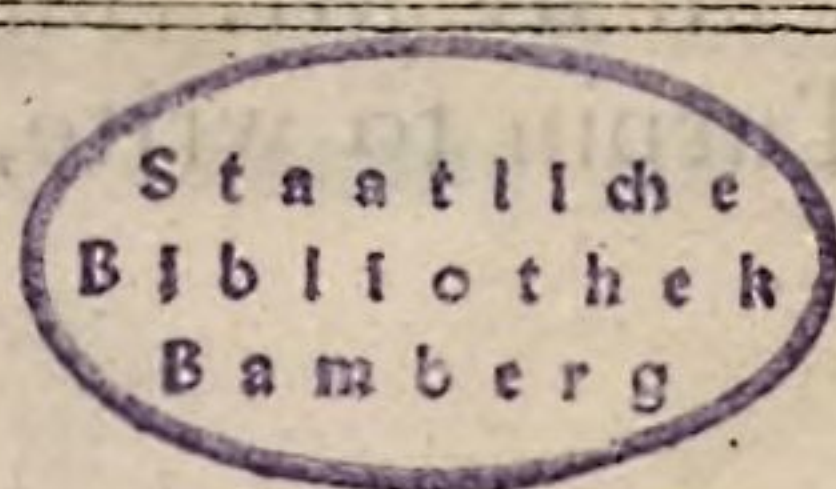
This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death: and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at ten shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners; and he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons: and he also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and followed by his mourners, as above-mentioned, to the place of execution, bowing to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference.

When he came to the fatal tree, he ascended the ladder: but, his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if he was ashamed to be observed to discover any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few minutes.

END OF VOL. I.



the fact, as we have seen, that the American Medical Association is not a body of men, but a body of ideas. It is a body of ideas, and it is a body of ideas that is the most powerful force in the world. It is a body of ideas that is the most powerful force in the world. It is a body of ideas that is the most powerful force in the world.

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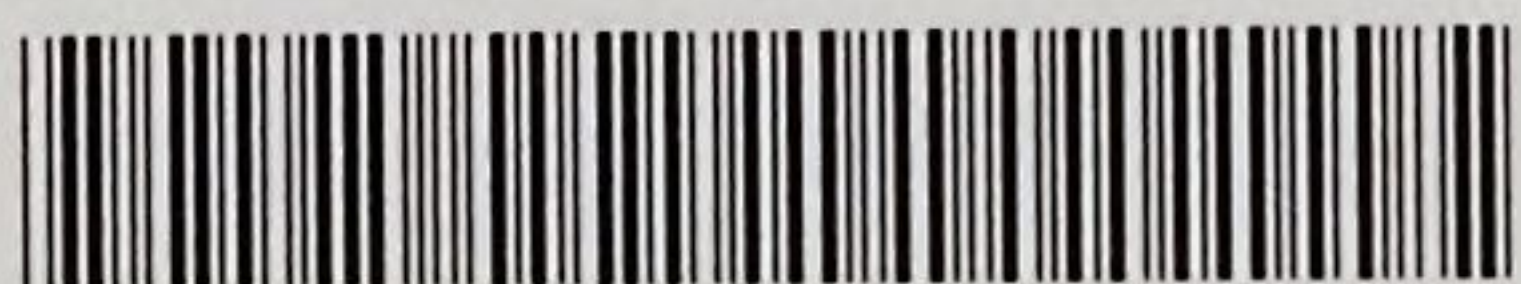
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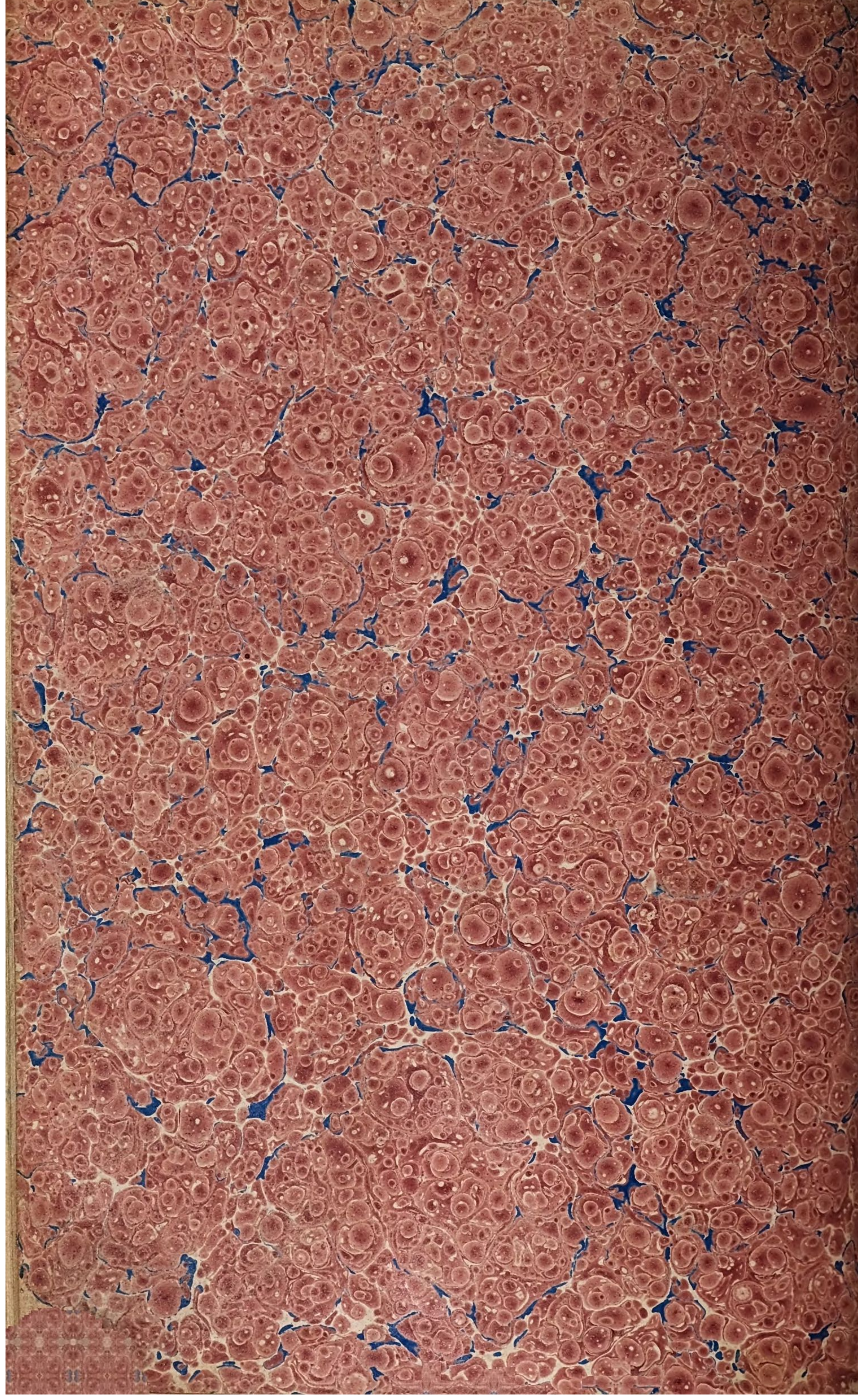
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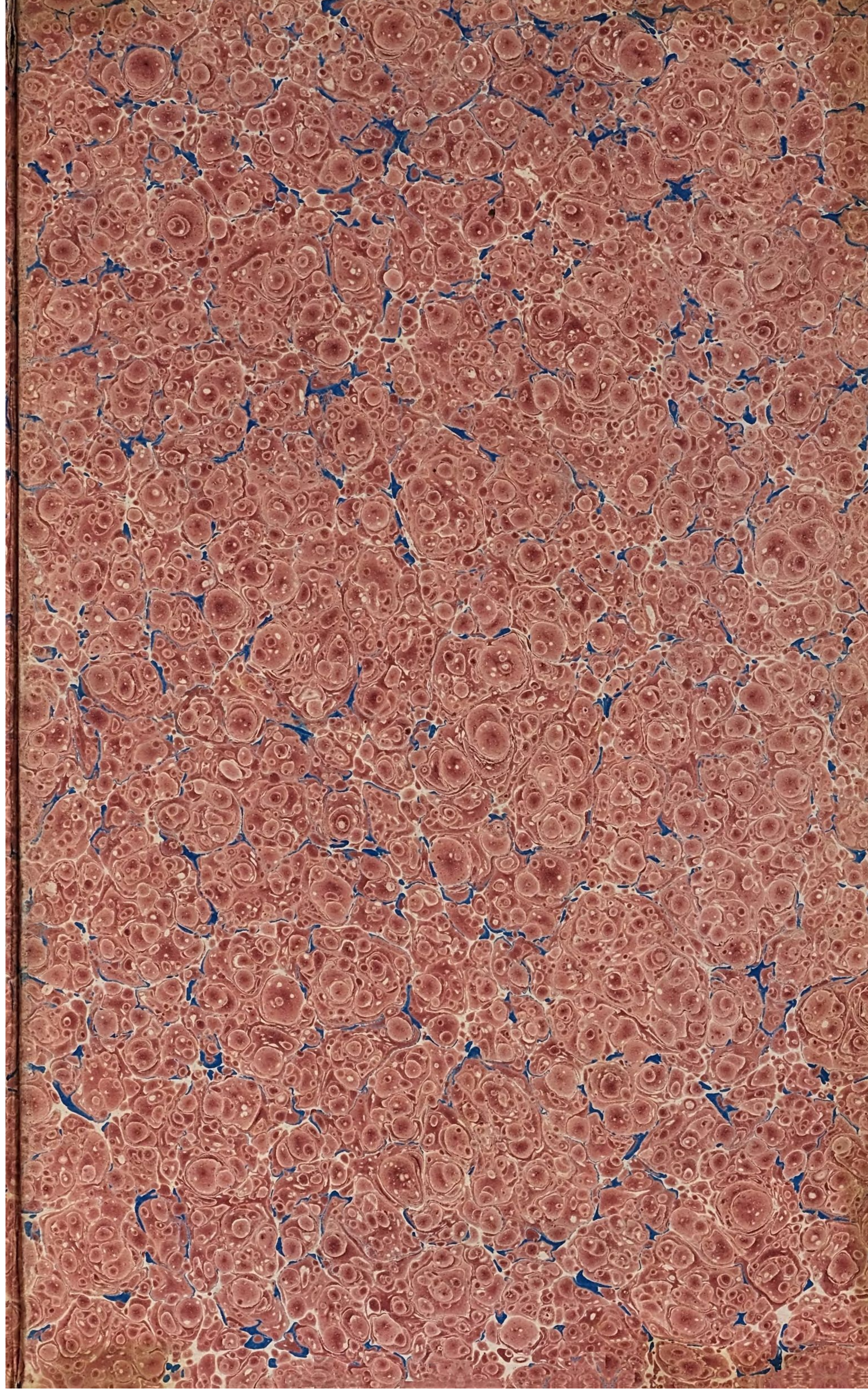
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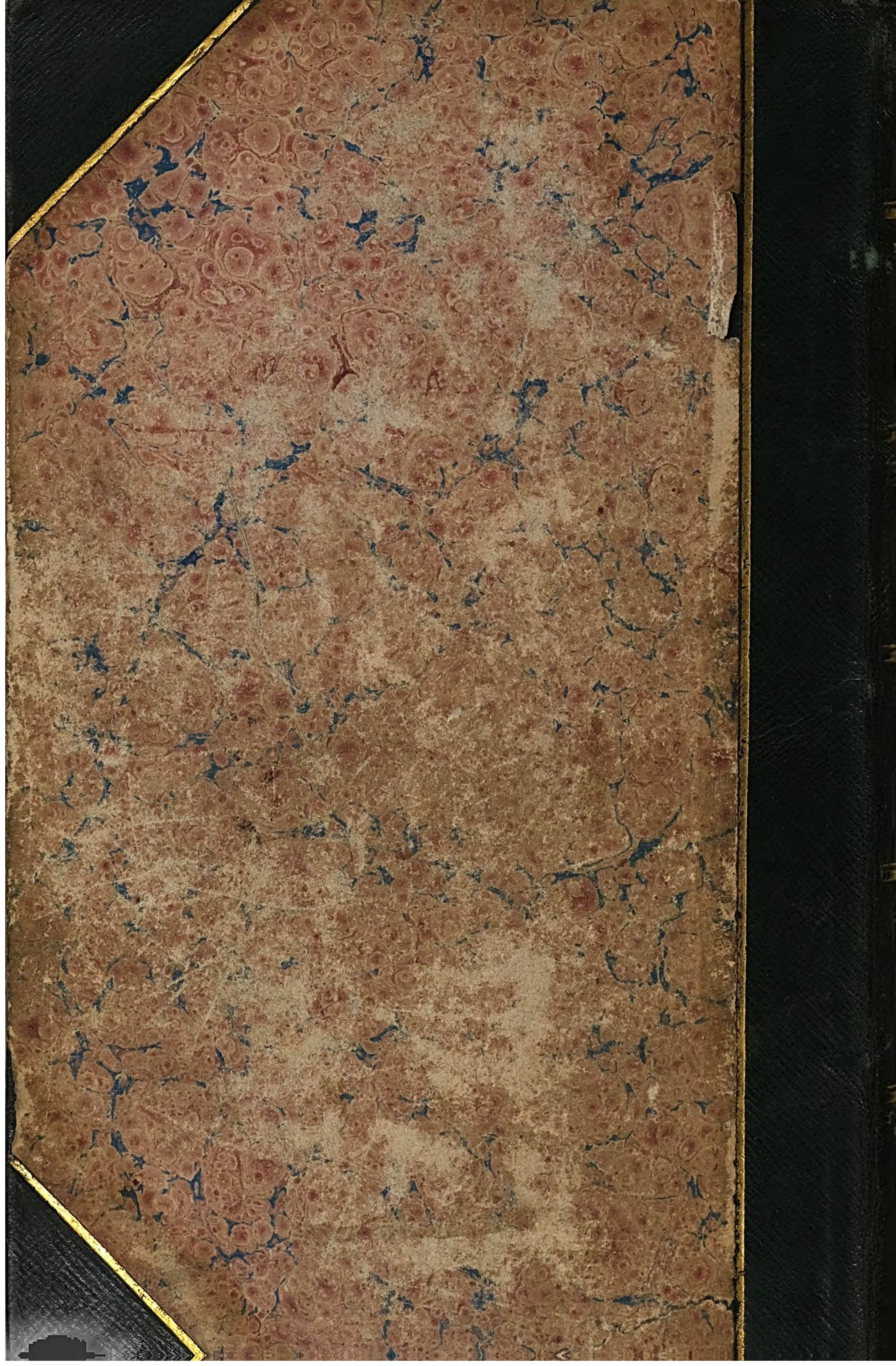
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Knapp, Andrew / Knapp, Andrew / Baldwin, William

The new Newgate calendar being interesting memoirs of notorious characters,
who have been convicted of outrages on the laws of England, during the
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London [1824]

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